

Victory Sports Series

SUMMER 1978

47954 \$1.00

# Wrestling

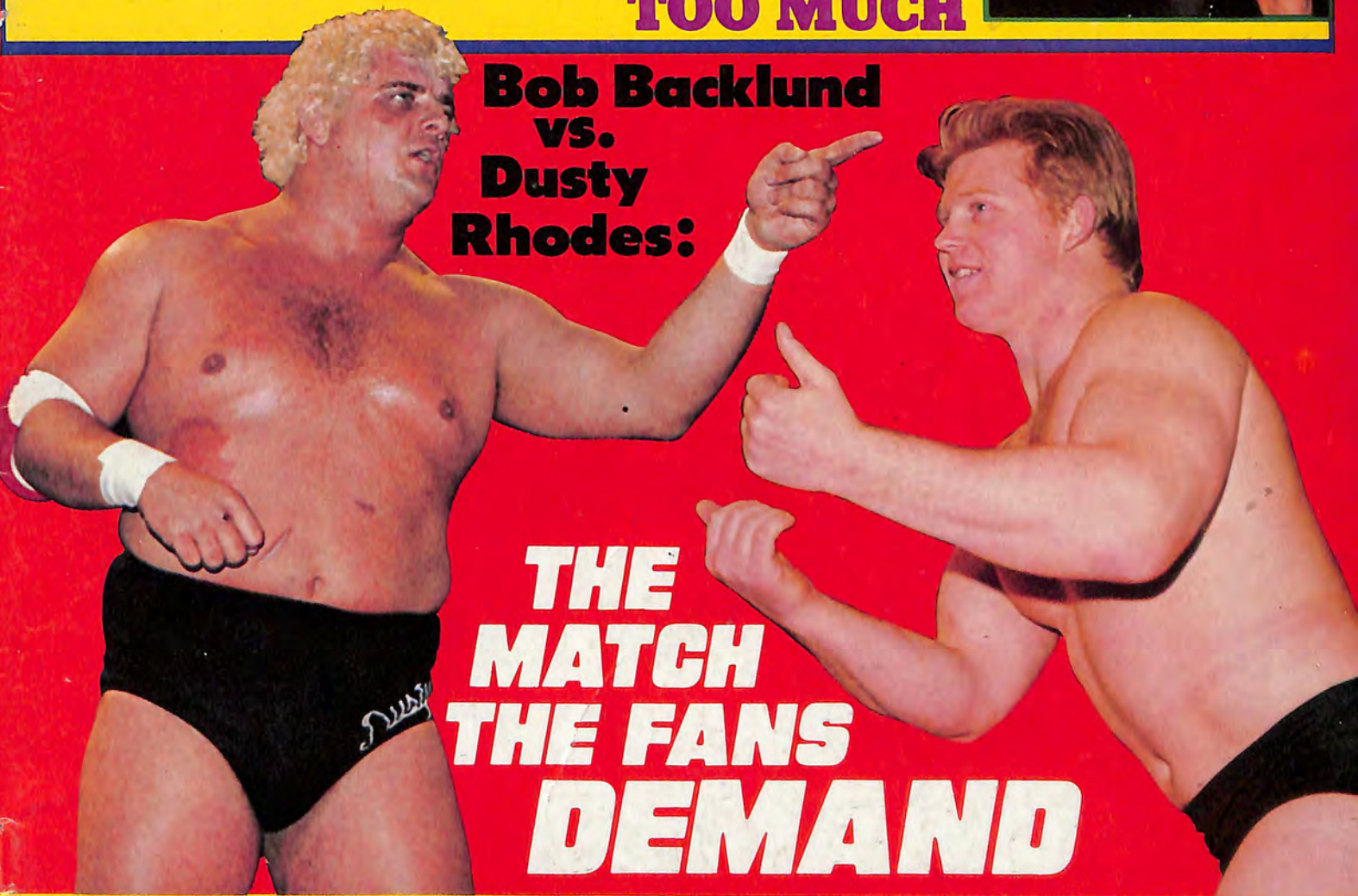
## 1978 YEARBOOK

*Wahoo McDaniel vs. Harley Race:*

**THE NIGHT THE TITLE MEANT  
TOO MUCH**

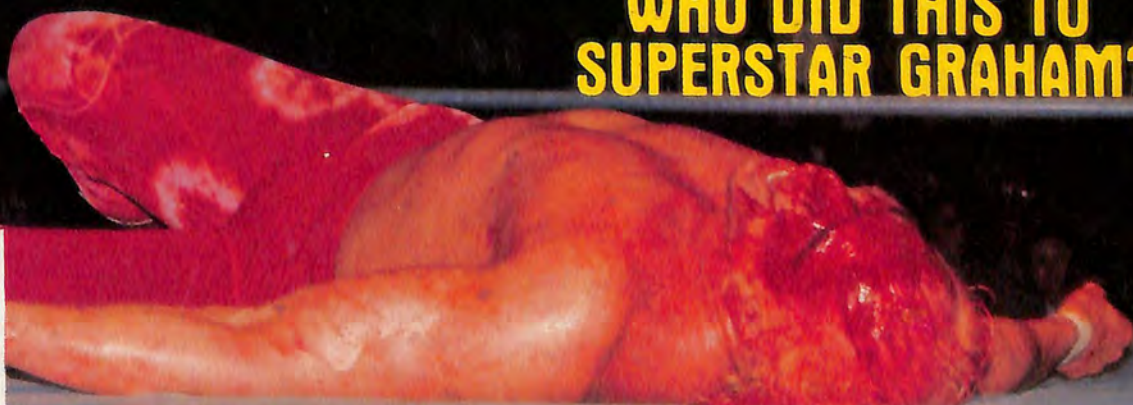


**Bob Backlund  
vs.  
Dusty  
Rhodes:**



**THE  
MATCH  
THE FANS  
DEMAND**

**WHO DID THIS TO  
SUPERSTAR GRAHAM?**





# How YOU can get in the best-shape of your life!

Imagine, a body building 'System' that can give you a 'Great-Body', in record time!

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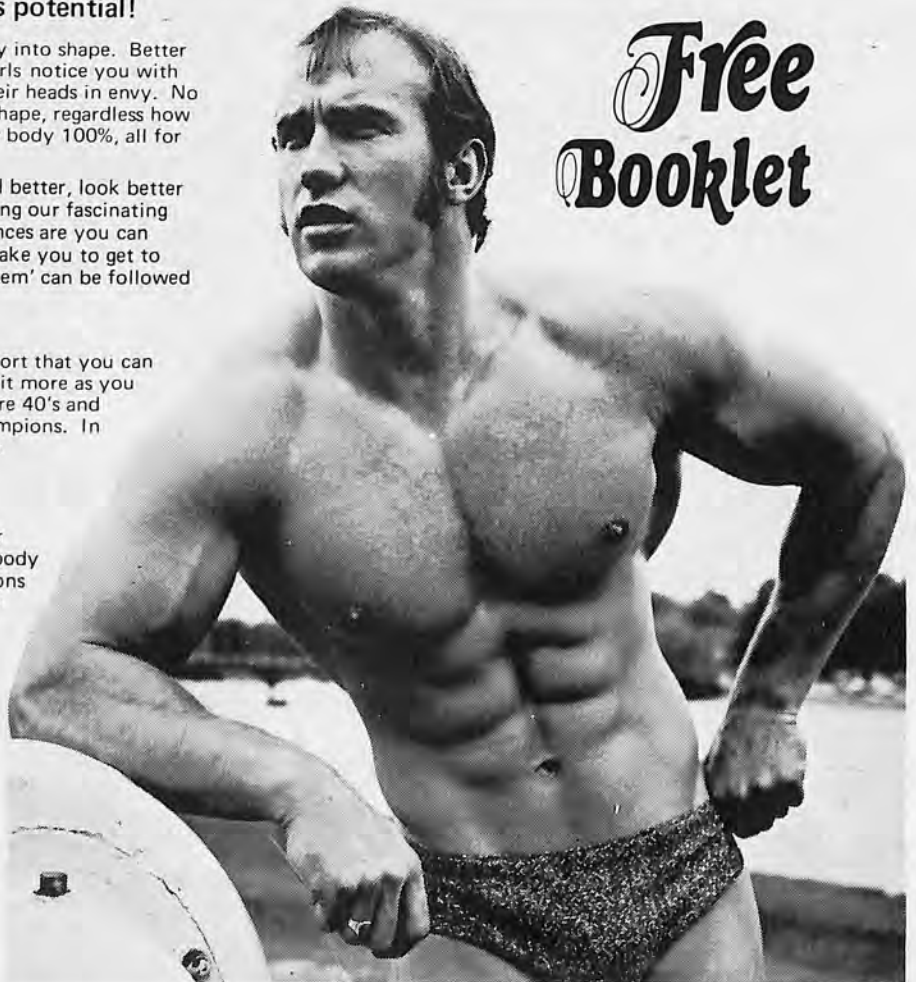
## Want a sexy, trim and muscular waist?

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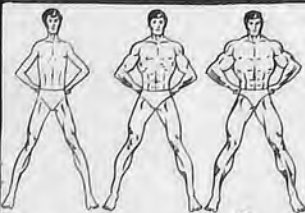
## As for sports ...

It's a fact; all factors being the same, the stronger person can always outperform! This applies to all endeavors that require strength and endurance.

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**MUSCLES WILL**  
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**MAGIC!**



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# Wrestling

## YEARBOOK

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# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—TATSUMI FUGINAMI (Jr. Heavyweight Champ)
- 4—MIL MASCARAS
- 5—SPIROS ARION
- 6—LUKE GRAHAM
- 7—KEN PATERA
- 8—DINO BRAVO
- 9—STAN STASIAK
- 10—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—VERNE GAGNE
- 2—RAY STEVENS
- 3—BILLY ROBINSON
- 4—LARRY HENNIG
- 5—JIM BRUNZELL
- 6—GREG GAGNE
- 7—BOB ORTON JR.
- 8—RUFUS R. JONES
- 9—ANGELO MOSCA
- 10—SUPER DESTROYER

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 3—MIL MASCARAS
- 4—BOB BACKLUND
- 5—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 6—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 7—MR. WRESTLING II
- 8—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 9—IVAN PUTSKI
- 10—BILLY ROBINSON



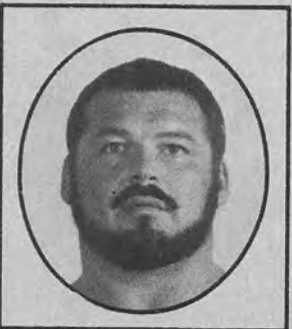
MIL MASCARAS



DUSTY RHODES



DICK SLATER



IVAN PUTSKI

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—RIC FLAIR
- 3—DICK MURDOCH
- 4—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 5—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 6—JACK BRISCO
- 7—TERRY FUNK
- 8—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 9—PAUL JONES
- 10—STAN HANSEN

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—RIC FLAIR & GREG VALENTINE
- 2—DINO BRAVO & DOMINIC DeNUCCI
- 3—MIKE GRAHAM & STEVE KEIRN
- 4—JIM BRUNZELL & GREG GAGNE
- 5—PAUL JONES & RICK STEAMBOAT
- 6—MR. SATO & MR. SAITO
- 7—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
- 8—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 9—OLE ANDERSON & JACQUES GOULET
- 10—TONY GAREA & LARRY ZBYSZKO

## MOST HATED

- 1—RIC FLAIR
- 2—KEN PATERA
- 3—STAN HANSEN
- 4—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 5—KILLER KOX
- 6—SPIROS ARION
- 7—GREG VALENTINE
- 8—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 9—SUPER DESTROYER
- 10—BOBBY DUNCUM



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# YOUR LETTERS

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A bloody and battered Dick Slater has still to learn not to get Paul Jones angry. Look at the result!

## I WOULD TOO!

If I were in Paul Jones' boots I would have done the same thing he did to Dick Slater in "I've Been to Bloody Hell and Back" (Spring 1978). Slater is a disgusting wrestler and someone should have done that to him a long time ago. You know Slater had to be bad to get Jones so riled up as he was. I've always been a big Paul Jones fan because I think he's one of the best and cleanest grapplers around.

DOMINIC CAPUTO  
Seldon, N.Y.

## APPALLED

It's a damn shame that the wrestling commissioners have let things get so out of hand and permitted this deplorable violence to continue. I won't allow my children to watch wrestling on television any longer. Wrestling is a sport and not war, but the entire wrestling community seems content to let the bloodshed continue. Someday a lot of people are going to die. Maybe then some authorities will step in. Attorneys prosecute hockey players for violence. Why isn't someone arresting the rulebreakers so wrestling can go back to the clean, fun sport it once was.

ALEXANDER KENNEY  
Portland, Me.

## POOR BABY

If Andre the Giant weren't such a big bully maybe he wouldn't have been stricken as he was in "Blinded By My Own Blood" (Spring 1978). Andre is the one who picks on other wrestlers and challenges them to Battle Royals. He thinks he can get away with anything, just because he's so big. The only way to even things up is to have a few guys wrestling him at the same



His face a crimson mask, Andre stumbles helplessly around the ring, trying desperately to defeat his opponent.

time. Then when he gets beaten up, he cries. I don't have sympathy for him and I don't think anyone else should. People should feel sorry for the real courageous guys like Ric Flair and Greg Valentine.

CANDYCE PORSE  
Little Rock, Ark.

(Continued on page 44)



# There's a world of music between having a guitar... *and knowing how to play it!*

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—the "right" way. Send for free booklet.**

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☐ Guitar (pick style)    ☐ Piano    ☐ Spinet Organ (2 keyboards)

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

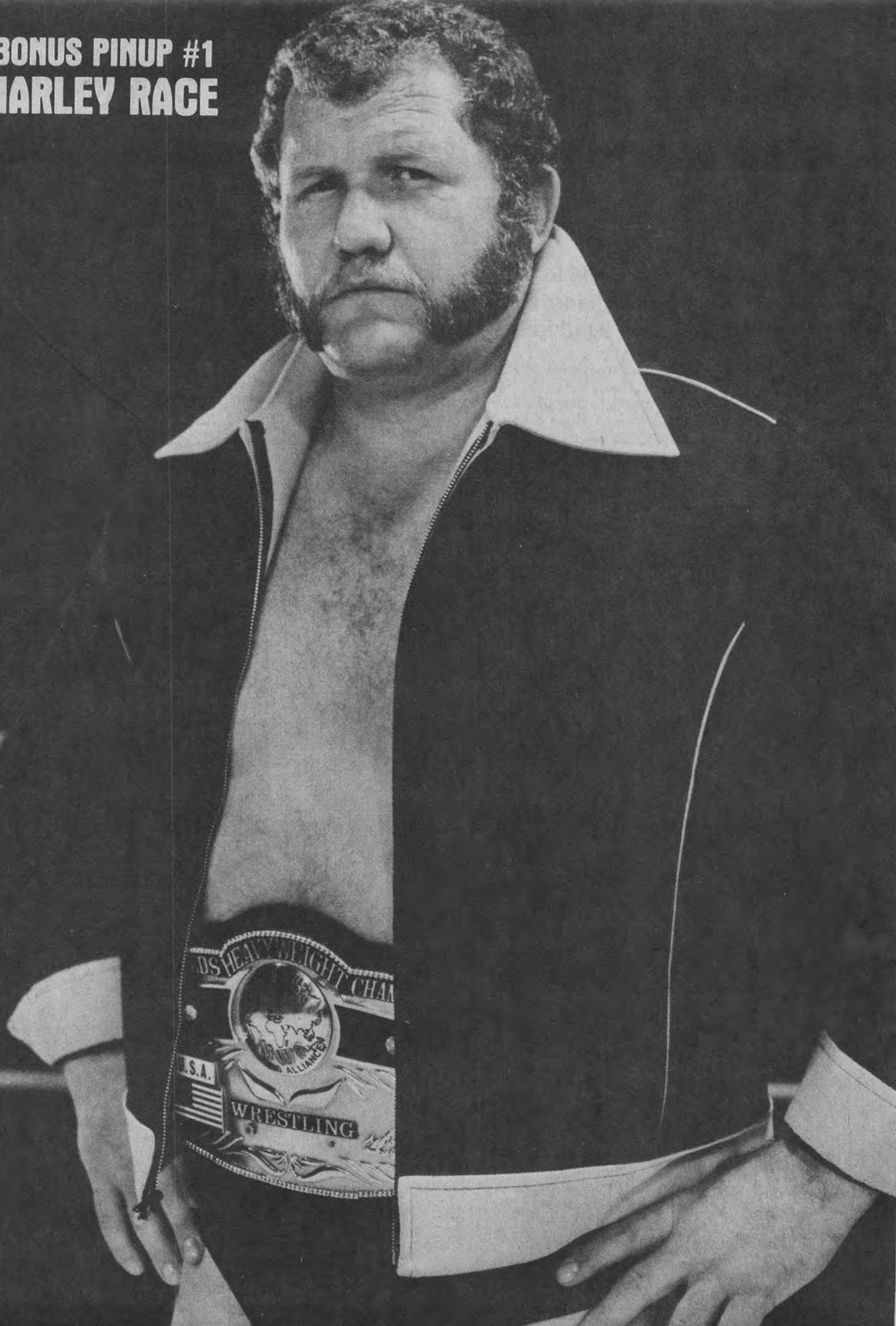
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# WHO DID THIS TO SUPERSTAR G

**L**ET NO MAN ever again doubt the abilities of Chavo Guerrero. After he so convincingly defeated Superstar Billy Graham, no man can underrate him. He has proven his talents.

Chavo Guerrero is a young man with a vision: he wants to be the NWA champion. It has been his goal since he made his debut as a professional wrestler a few years ago. At times, he has been obsessed with the notion. At times, his dreams have interfered with his success.

In hindsight, it is clear that Chavo allowed himself to be



rushed. He should have taken more time. He entered title competition too early, and he paid dearly for this major blunder. In battles against Terry Funk, and later Harley Race, Chavo's inexperience led him into making too many significant errors. At the time, no one said he was untalented, just inexperienced. Experts said there would come a day when Guerrero would be feared by wrestlers throughout the sport.

That time has come.

It seemed like it would be an easy challenge for Superstar Billy Graham. He has faced young wrestlers before. He has destroyed young wrestlers before. They usually cannot stand up to

Chavo Guerrero stands over the fallen Superstar Graham, ready to finish the assault which left Billy so bloody.



him. This wily veteran figured Chavo would be no exception. He was wrong.

Chavo prepared very carefully for this match against Graham. Indeed, he treated this battle as if there was a championship at stake. For even though Superstar Graham no longer held a belt, he was still an important opponent.

This battle proved to be the most important one Chavo has had in a long time. For the past year, his career seemed to have eclipsed. It was as if he was falling from the top as rapidly as he had risen. No one could explain why this seemed so, but it could not be denied. Even the cartel of Mexican millionaires which backs

Guerrero was beginning to worry. They feared their hopes of winning a world wrestling championship for Mexico would never be realized.

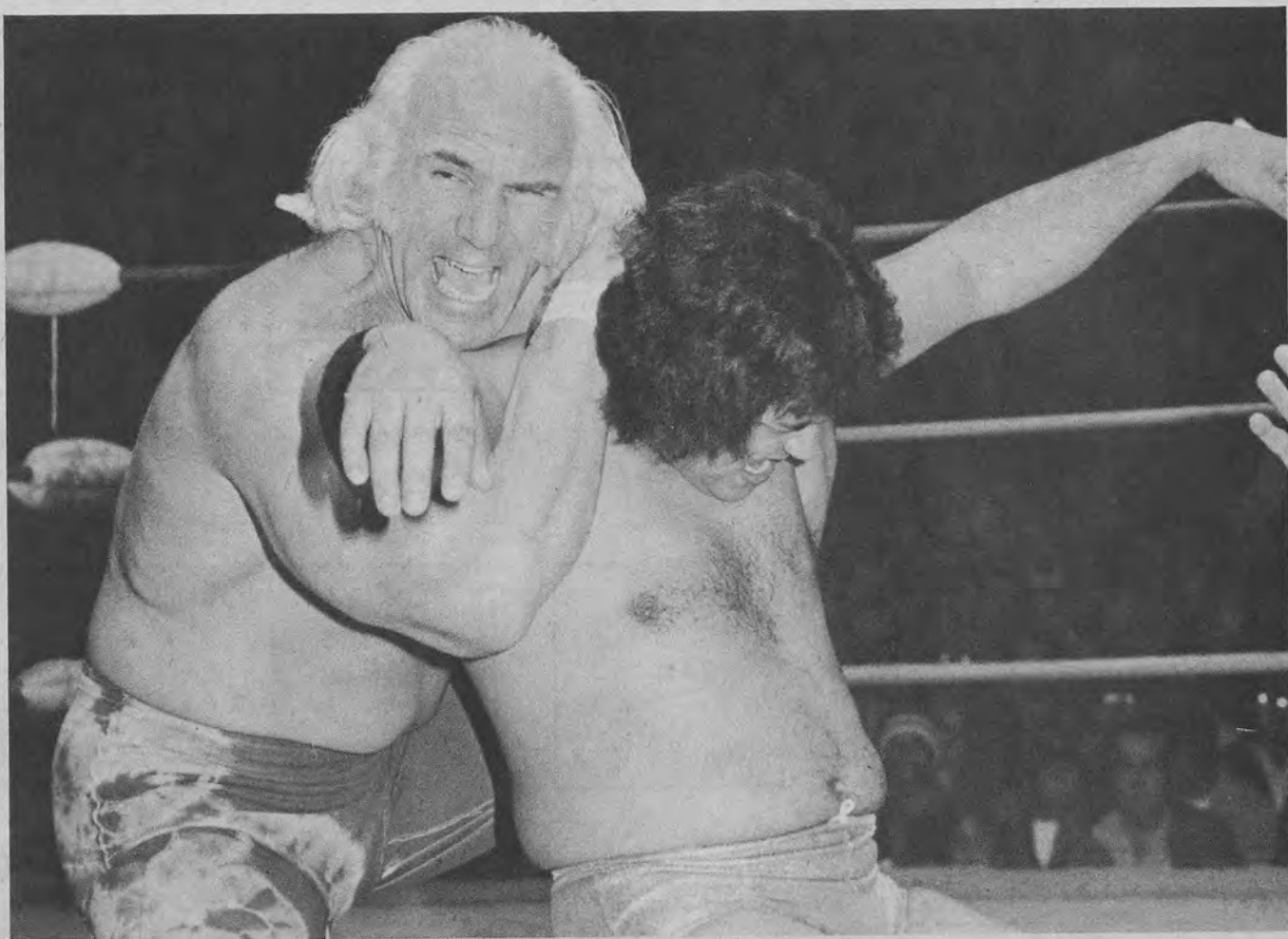
Of course, self-doubt plagued Chavo himself. For a time, he feared he had somehow lost the talent, drive, and hunger he once

*(Continued on page 48)*

**Superstar Billy Graham thought he would have an easy time when he battled Chavo Guerrero. But the young wrestler surprised his opponent, and in the process gained new glory for himself!**

# GRAHAM?

Superstar Graham thinks a full nelson will bring Chavo Guerrero under control, but he is sadly mistaken.



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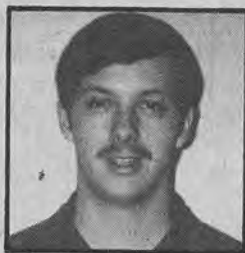
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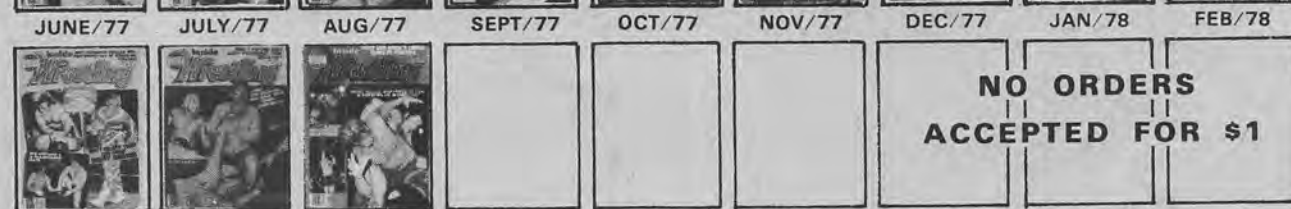
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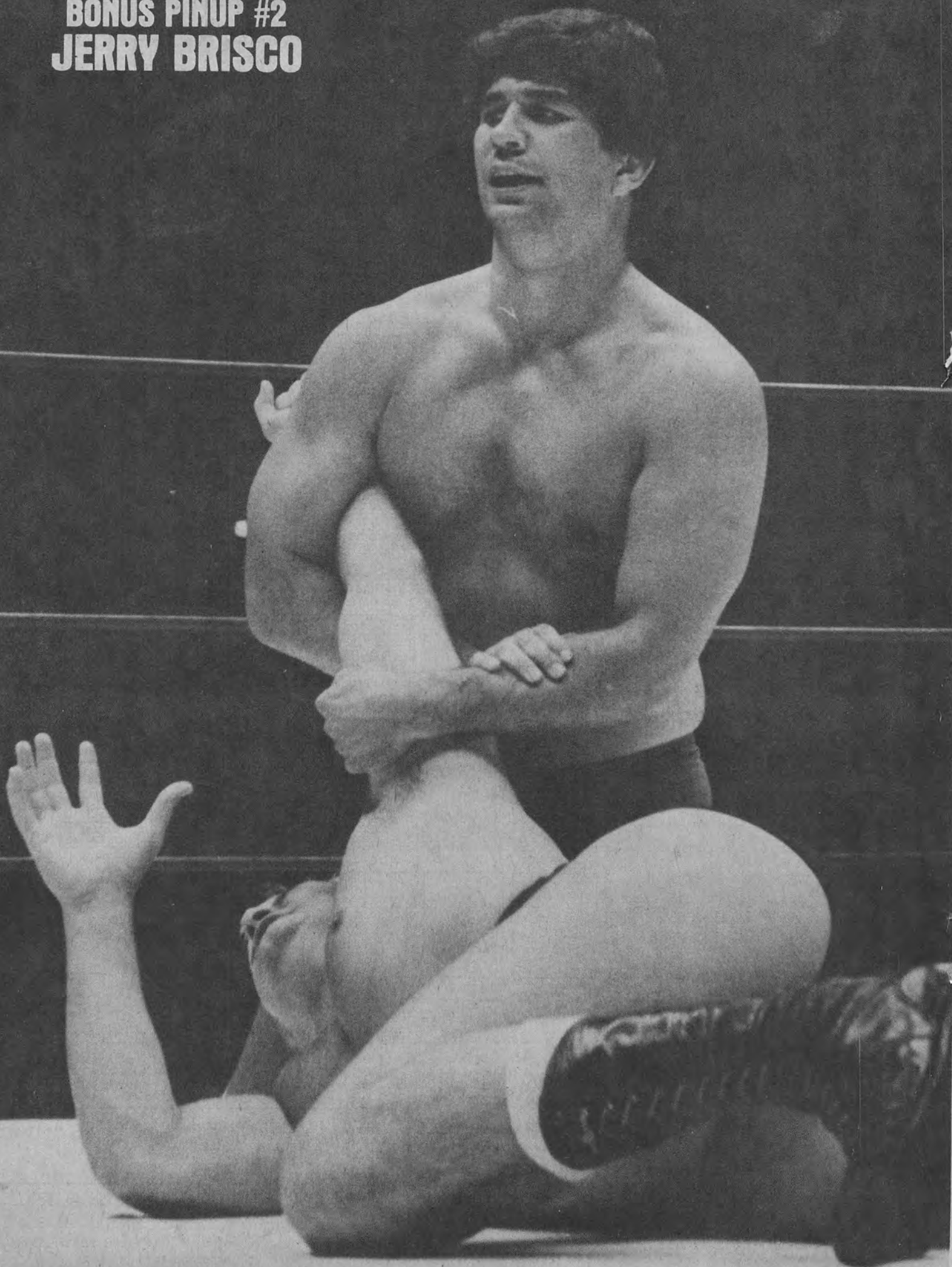
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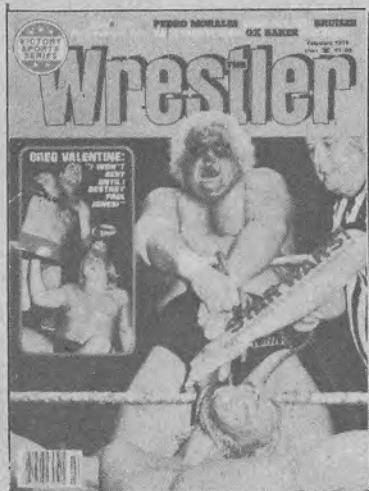




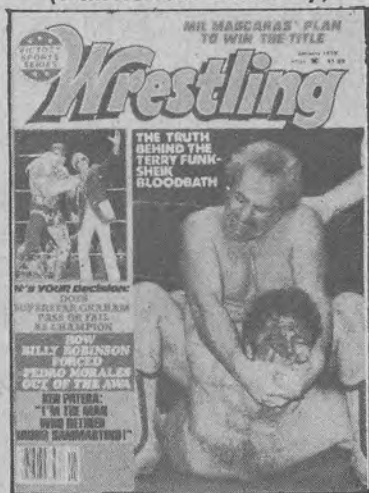
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# Wahoo McDaniel vs. Harley Race:

Wahoo uses his "Tomahawk Chop" on the champion (left). Both men are bloody, tired, and battered as the match draws to a close (below).



## THE NIGHT THE TITLE





**S**OMETIMES THE HUNGER for glory can get to be too much. Sometimes the unquenchable desire to win the title becomes uncontrollable. Sometimes the desired goal becomes shrouded in the blood-lust, resulting in a hollow victory.

Sometimes death is a next-door neighbor of the belt.

A display of these uncontrollable emotions happened during the recent championship match between Wahoo McDaniel and NWA champion Harley Race. When it ended, neither man was able to stand without the assistance of a friend, neither man could see

out of the swollen eyes over which rivers of blood poured upon the bruised bodies.

Harley Race won. But at what cost?

Both men were almost murderers.

McDaniel has become obsessed with winning the NWA title. Part of the reason is his feeling that Race is a disgrace to the sport and not deserving of the belt. Another reason is McDaniel's personal loathing of Race as an individual. And still another reason is that McDaniel feels himself to be the superior wrestler.

Now for the motivation

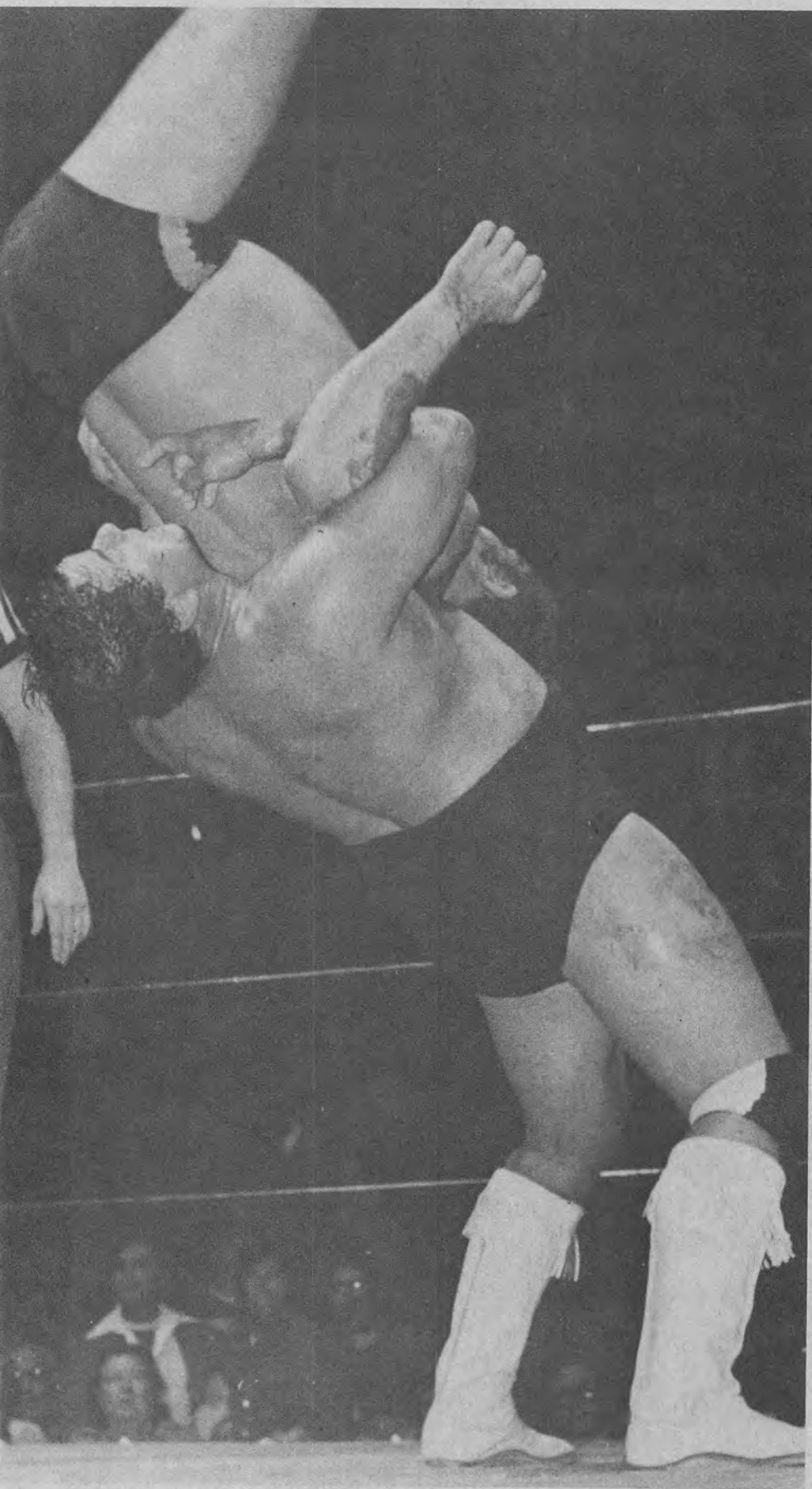


Harley uses the ropes for leverage at a crucial point in the match (above). No one ever expected that so much blood would flow during this battle.

# E MEANT TOO MUCH

Wahoo McDaniel staked everything on his title match against Harley Race. But this battle proved to be Wahoo's undoing. Now he faces a tough time advancing through the ranks once again





Wahoo has lifted Harley Race high in the air, and is preparing to slam him hard to the canvas. McDaniel made a valiant attempt to win the belt this night, but he made too many mistakes. He will do better next time.

impelling the NWA champion as they headed for their bloody collision course. Harley Race has always detested Wahoo McDaniel. Race has never concealed his disdain for the American Indian. He is not above—or below—uttering disgusting racial insults at McDaniel. Race also resents McDaniel's statements about the champion's lack of ability. Harley feels he has earned the belt and becomes enraged when anyone suggests he is not of championship caliber.

Others have suggested this before, but no one has ever evoked such contempt for so many diverse reasons. Their war was inevitable. As was the



McDaniel flips Harley Race and stuns the man completely at a crucial point.

bloodshed. As was the animalistic behavior and the savage snarls and the oceans of blood which consumed both man and canvas in one repulsive red sea.

Another factor was at work here. Pride. Neither man would succumb for fear it would be interpreted as weakness. McDaniel had to prove he was a worthy challenger, not to

*(Continued on page 52)*



**Killer Karl Kox is a vicious, ruthless, cunning rulebreaker. Now a noted psychologist has joined the chorus of people begging the commissions to ban this hated man before the situation becomes too violent**

# **"BAN KILLER KARL KOX!"**

**W**RESTLERS HAVE SAID it. Fans have demanded it. The commissioners are considering it. Now the cycle of fear is complete. A noted psychologist has suggested Killer Karl Kox poses a grave menace to human life and must be banned.

"He seems to be a deeply disturbed, potentially psychopathic personality hovering on the verge of schizophrenia," said Dr. Manfred E. Wilson. "While I would have to put him through therapy, my observations of his behavior and reports from other sources are quite persuasive. He is dangerous and should not be permitted to continue wrestling."

Kox's ugly story has been recounted many times, through magazine articles, through the initial rescinding of his license 20 years ago, through the crippled wrestlers he has joyously maimed. Such antics should not be allowed, yet

*(Continued on page 54)*

Killer Kox tries to savagely choke the life out of Dusty Rhodes with a rubber hose. Many people now believe it is time to permanently ban Kox from wrestling.





From all over the country, we have received letters asking when Bob Backlund is going to put his title on the line against Dusty Rhodes. Fans want this match. The two wrestlers want this match. So why will it be almost impossible for this battle to ever take place?

# Bob Backlund vs.

# Rhodes

# THE MAN

# THE FAN

# DEMAND

**A**T A CERTAIN moment in history, the purposeful avoidance of an inevitable event becomes simply impossible. Wrestling is moving toward that moment. The fans will no longer tolerate delays or excuses. Their clamoring demands are filling our mailboxes and jangling the phones of promoters.

Ric Flair could not survive against a raging Dusty Rhodes. Could Bob Backlund do any better than Flair?



They want to know when Bob Backlund and Dusty Rhodes will meet. And they want the match to happen now.

"I'd love to wrestle Bob," Rhodes said. "He's an excellent wrestler and a decent person. I think it would be a great match."

"I've always respected Dusty Rhodes—both as a man and as an athlete," Backlund said. "Of all





Backlund has proven his toughness and talent in matches against men like Mr. Fuji. But could he do so well in a match with Dusty Rhodes?

# Dusty Rhodes: TCH ANS AND



Fans all over the world want to see their hero, Dusty Rhodes, do battle for Bob Backlund's WWF belt.

the top contenders, I think our bout would be the best. I think it could turn into one of the classics of wrestling."

Then why haven't the WWF champion and The American Dream met? Surely it is obvious both wrestlers are willing to schedule a match. Surely the fans are insisting that it take place.

Who or what is stopping it? And

why?

Perusing the pages of recent wrestling history might furnish a clue. When Bruno Sammartino was reigning WWF champion, the same demands for a match between Bruno and such grapplers as Chief Jay Strongbow and Ivan Putski suffered the same fate of indifference. Those matches never came off. The reasons seem to be

the same yesterday as they are today.

Drawing fans. An absolutely ludicrous excuse. What could be more thrilling than watching two brilliant wrestlers battle before 20,000 fans. Backlund is a marvelous scientific wrestler, agile, innovative, with supple strands of strength. Dusty is one of the most remarkable physical specimens in wrestling, a devastating combination of agility, muscle and intelligence.

Backlund is right. This might very well become a wrestling classic. It would not be dull. Not with Dusty Rhodes. It would not lack for creative moves. Not with Bob Backlund. Nor would it turn into a gutter brawl, not with two apostles of decency such as these men.

But there is hesitance about the drawing power of this match. Several promoters who understandably wished anonymity expressed this belief.

"It would be like watching two ballet dancers," said a New England promoter. "If you wanted to film the match and use it for instructional purposes, then okay. But it wouldn't be more than a dull textbook match without any excitement."

Dusty and Bob dull???

"They're too nice," said another promoter. "People want to see a good guy against a bad guy. That way the rooting is clearly defined. Bruno went through the same thing when he was champ. He wanted to wrestle Strongbow, but no one would have come to see it. I don't care how much hysteria there is now, wait until all the people come disguised as empty seats."

"Dusty is only effective when he has some villainous opponent to

*(Continued on page 56)*

# ★ **SPECIAL** ★ **BONUS SECTION**

## WHO'S BEST IN WRESTLING

**O**NCE AGAIN, WE have devoted hours of extensive research to provide the fans with a detailed compilation of wrestling's finest grapplers.

Our panel of experts spent large sums of money on both airfare and phone calls in an

exhaustive effort to contact all people associated with the sport.

Our panel spoke to promoters, managers, trainers, veteran wrestling journalists, leaders of fan clubs and, of course, the wrestlers themselves, in

accumulating this vast wealth of information.

Nearly 100 wrestlers were on our original list. With that total, we felt the result would be more of an encyclopedia. We knew we had to pare it down so the end result would

*(Continued on page 62)*

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Our panel of experts spent months analyzing the wrestling scene to come up with a list of the top men in the sport. Their extraordinary findings will definitely surprise you, but you will find it difficult to disagree with their choices

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# BOB BACKLUND

*WWWF Heavyweight Champion*

A brilliant combination of speed and strength . . . Upset of Graham may launch him into one of the longest WWWF reigns in history . . . Represents the new breed of college-educated wrestler . . . Uses intelligence as well as physical skills . . . His atomic spinebreaker is fast becoming one of the most feared holds in world . . . Battled his way to the top by taking on any challenger . . . One of most decent grapplers around . . . rapidly becoming one of the fans' favorites.

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# DUSTY RHODES

*Most Popular Wrestler in the Sport*

Unquestionably the most exciting wrestler around . . . His bionic elbow is simply terrifying . . . Never afraid to wrestle anyone, anywhere . . . Fans go wild as soon as he enters the ring . . . Known as "The American Dream" . . . His quick temper often gets him into brutal brawls . . . Has surprising agility . . . Though one of the kindest men around, he will still seek out brutal battles like chain matches, bullrope matches and cage matches . . . Is obsessed with winning a belt for his millions of fans . . . A creative grappler who is constantly improvising new moves to complement his enormous physical talents . . . Would like to see wrestling united into one federation.

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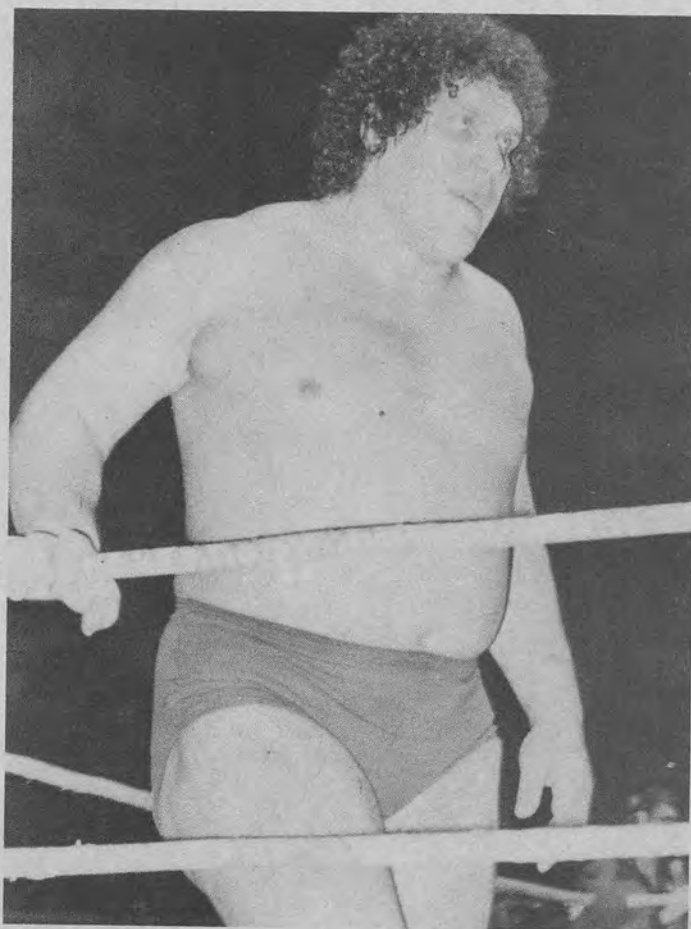




# MIL MASCARAS

*The Best Flying Wrestler  
in the Sport*

Greatest masked wrestler ever to live . . . Has an astonishing array of flying body moves . . . Never ceases to amaze fans with his variety of holds . . . Owns over 1000 masks, each more imaginative than the next . . . Beloved movie idol around the world . . . Considered the most decent man ever to wrestle . . . Would never stoop to any rulebreaking . . . Always a perfect gentleman who is willing to listen to his fans . . . Has extraordinary strength and agility . . . His physique is envied by all his opponents . . . Wants to win a belt, but won't indulge in any viciousness to do so . . . Believes his integrity is the most important attribute he has.



# ANDRE THE GIANT

*The Eighth Wonder of the World*

Owens the most fearsome body in wrestling . . . He and Rhodes run neck and neck in the hearts of wrestling fans . . . Is unbeatable in Battle Royal . . . Opponents are terrified of him and try to use all manner of treachery to defeat him . . . Is thought to be just one move away from a championship . . . Has startling speed to go along with his massive 7'5" frame . . . Rarely strays from pre-match strategy . . . Thrives on the challenge of handicap matches . . . Is already a wrestling legend.



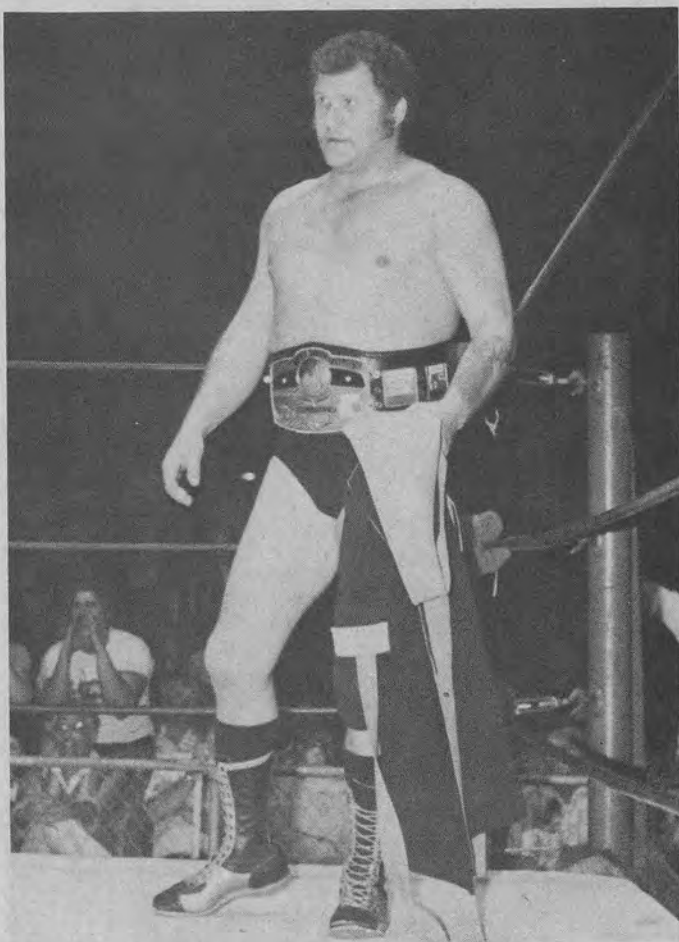
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# HARLEY RACE

## *NWA Heavyweight Champion*

A nearly unbeatable combination of agility and brutal techniques . . . His reign as champion has surprised many people who underestimated him . . . Superbly masculine body . . . Utterly fearless, a fact which scares opponents who use everything they have only to see Race still standing . . . Master of neck and head holds . . . Has been known to get himself disqualified in order to keep the belt . . . Absolutely vicious . . . Not above using many illegal maneuvers to win a match . . . His "Piledriver" is his top move.

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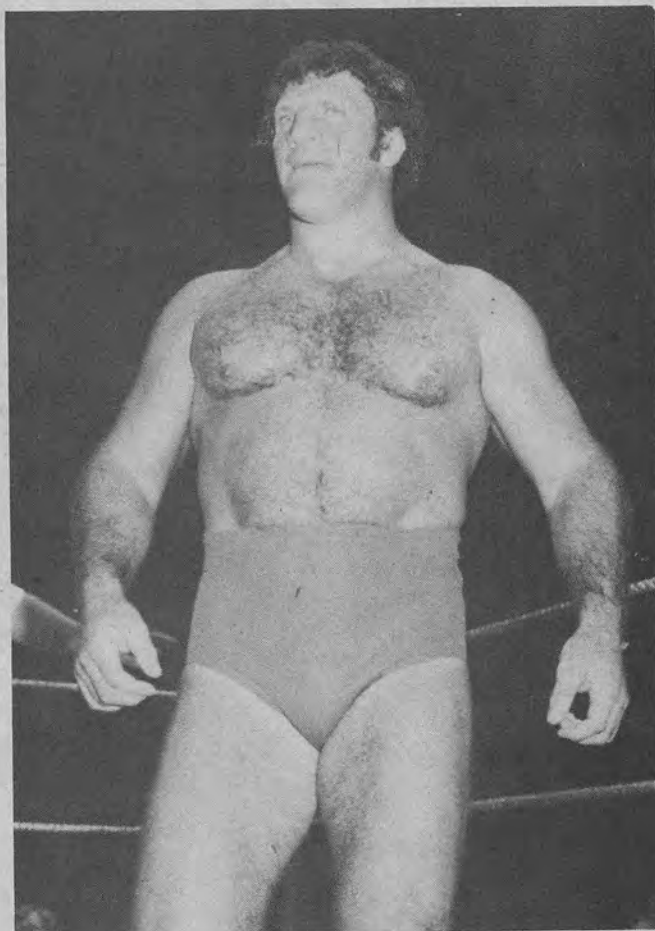
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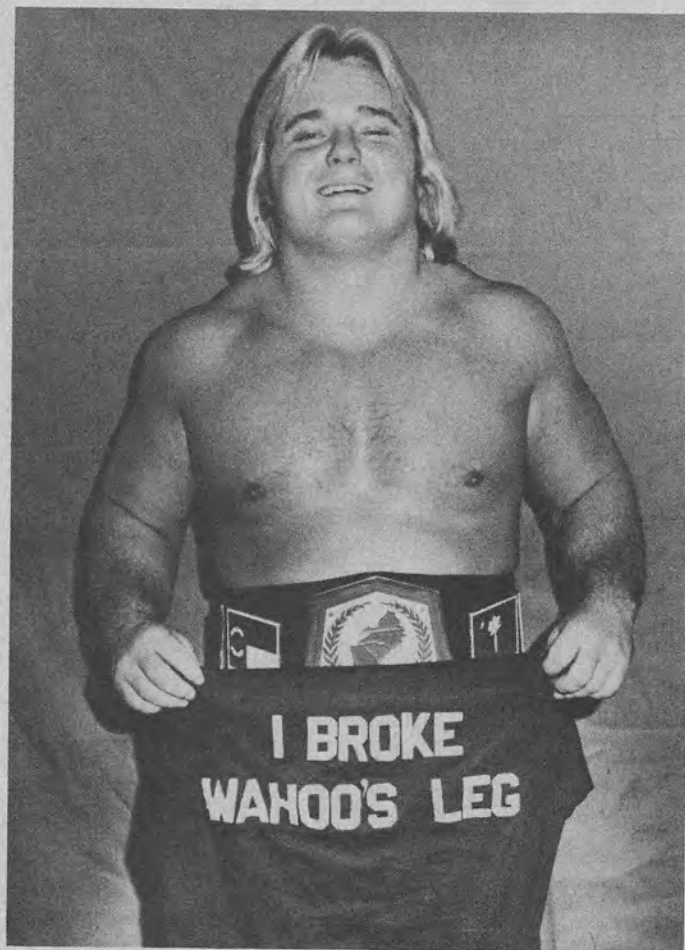
# BRUNO SAMMARTINO

## *Former WWF Champion*

"The Living Legend," a well-deserved title to one of wrestling's greatest men . . . Almost superhuman ability to withstand punishment, one of the many factors contributing to his remarkable success . . . Has met and defeated nearly every top wrestler in the world . . . Still claims that Graham stole the title from him . . . Marvelous scientific wrestler who also has the attributes of great physical prowess . . . One of the most dedicated trainers in the world . . . Courage and stamina are remarkable . . . His experience makes him one of the most remarkable wrestlers alive.

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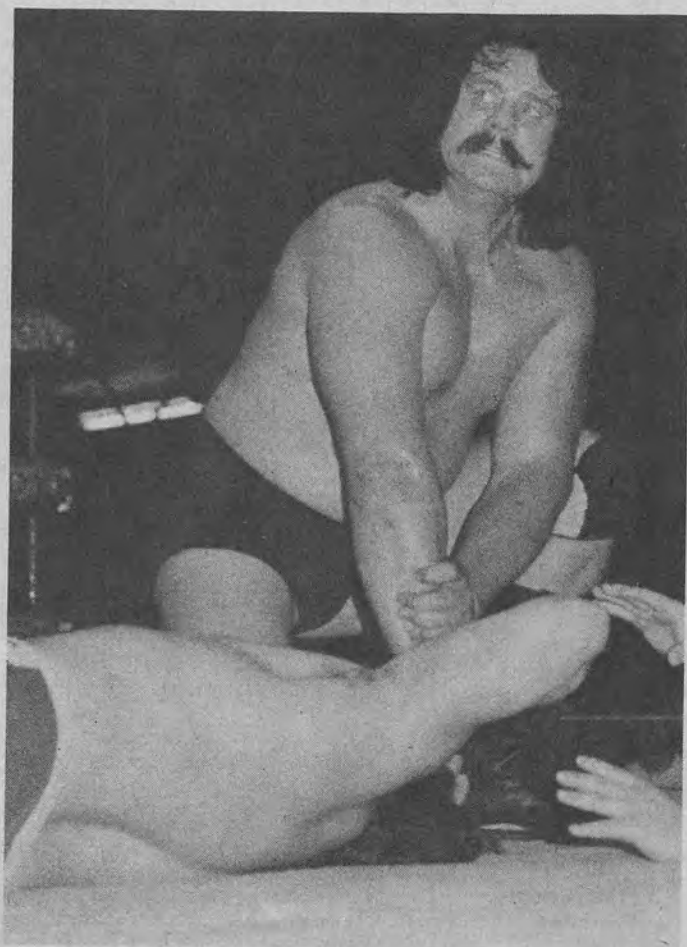




# GREG VALENTINE

*Utterly Ruthless*

Seeks out new ways to torture his opponents . . . Known to read history just to extract new modes of torture . . . Historical heros are Attila the Hun and Dracula . . . Has no regard for human life—his opponent's or his own . . . Exceptionally strong . . . His flying atomic skullcrusher has caused brain damage in several foes . . . Basically an ungraceful wrestler with little courage in his massive body . . . Sneers at fans . . . Though he tries to hide it, he does own a good mind which his flair for sadism is ruining . . . Cunning tag team partner . . . Adequate speed . . . His repertoire is underrated.



# BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

*Versatile and Cruel*

A truly despicable man whose reputation for savagery is well-deserved . . . Extremely versatile wrestler who has a wide range of both legal and illegal moves . . . A practical man who can wrestle fair or dirty, but who generally ends up breaking the rules . . . Excellent size and strength . . . Poor speed . . . Quite unpredictable, liable to play fair then erupt into a display of bestiality befitting a wounded boar . . . Has much innate talent which he has channeled in the wrong direction . . . Many observers felt he had a chance to become one of the truly great scientific wrestlers, but blew it . . . Definitely one of the most feared men in the sport.



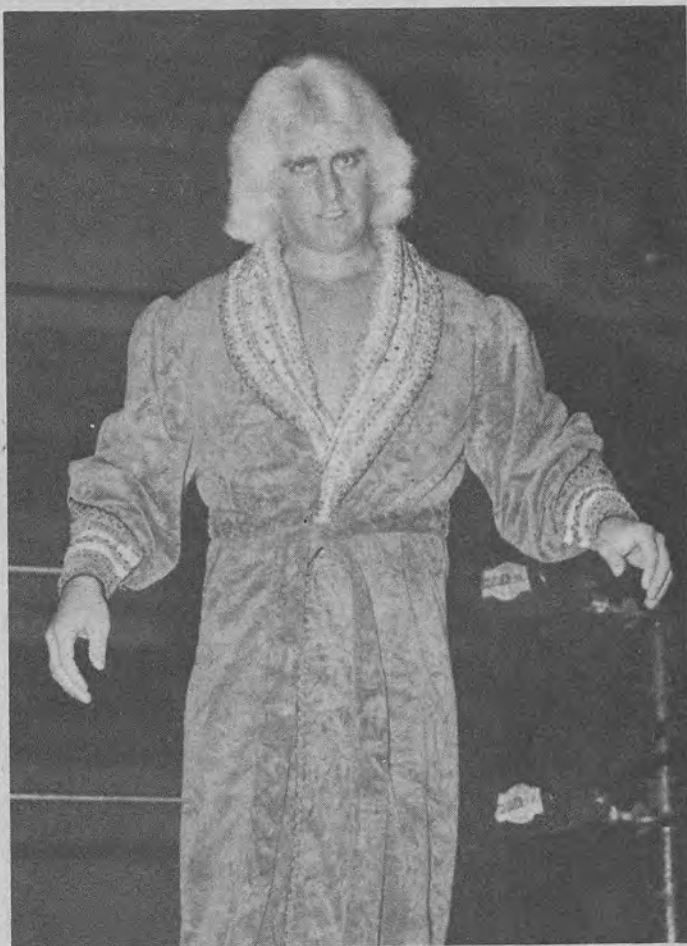
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# RIC FLAIR

## *Mr. Arrogance*

Difficult to determine which is greater, his arrogance or his talents . . . His illegality compensates for his yellow streak . . . One of the most barbaric grapplers . . . Has surprising speed, which is probably his greatest attribute . . . Owns two punishing moves, the atomic neckbreaker and the flying kneedrop . . . Will often laugh at the drop of a foes' blood . . . Toughness outweighs his lack of intelligence . . . Not above running out of the ring when faced with a particularly tough challenger . . . A human form of a dinosaur, both in creativity and intellect.

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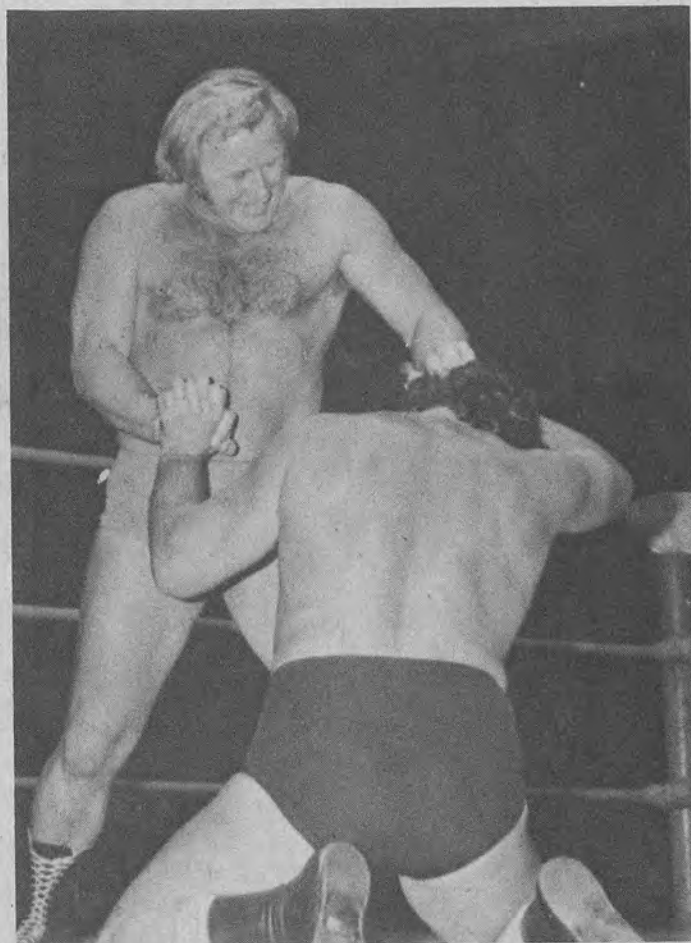
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# NICK BOCKWINKLE

## *AWA Heavyweight Champion*

His inhumanity makes him a disgrace to his title . . . There is no trick considered too mean for him . . . A shrewd grappler who knows how to finish off an opponent . . . Master of the subtle rulebreaking move . . . Former AWA tag team champion with partner Ray Stevens, now a hated rival . . . Courage is not a strong point . . . Strength is overrated . . . Stays on top by devising devious tricks with the aid of manager Bobby Heenan . . . Maps out strategy beforehand, leaving no room for improvisation . . . Lack of creativity in ring lead many to believe Bockwinkle is nothing without Heenan.

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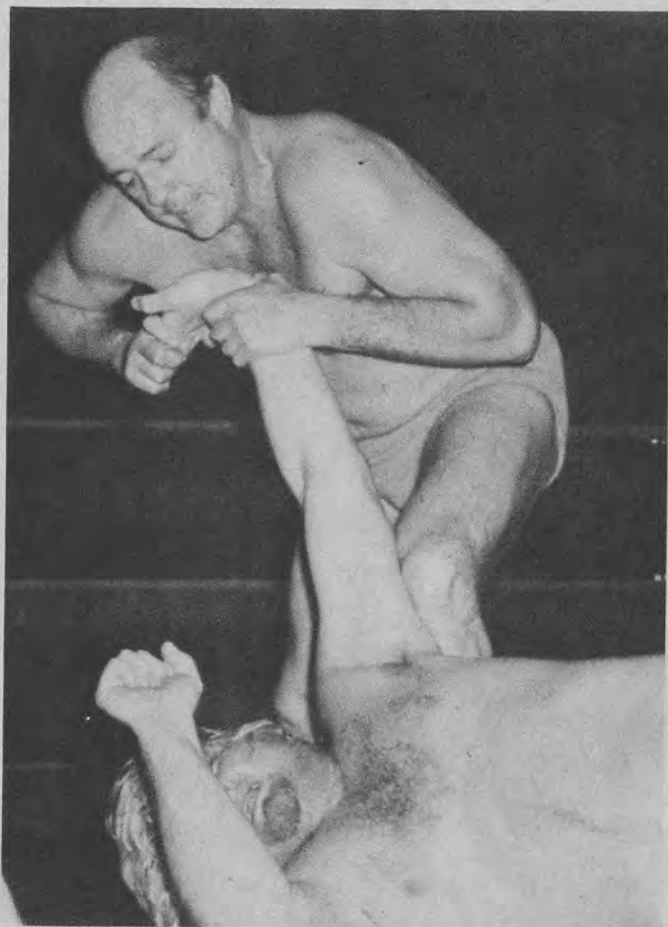




# ERNIE LADD

*The Fearsome One*

His scientific matches, which are rare, serve as a classroom for wrestlers who want to learn new techniques and ideas . . . Prior career as All-Pro AFL football player has given him quick instincts and the capacity to withstand pain and finish off his opponent . . . At 6'9", he possesses massive size yet still has astonishing mobility and grace, a fact which constantly confounds his foes . . . One flaw is his erratic behavior, which makes predicting how well he will eventually do very difficult . . . His favorite finishing move is to jab his taped thumb into the neck of an opponent and follow it with a flying dive . . . Might be champion very soon.



# VERNE GAGNE

*Ex-AWA Champion*

The recognized expert on the intricacies of scientific wrestling . . . His experience and dedication make him the dean of scientific wrestling . . . When AWA champion, he used the belt to further dignity and honor in the profession . . . The sleeper hold is his foremost weapon . . . Though a veteran, he has compensated for diminution of speed with his tireless training . . . Astonishing stamina . . . Tremendous tag team partner . . . Has the ability to control his temper regardless of his opponent's tactics . . . Former Olympic wrestler . . . Very intelligent man, both in and out of the ring . . . Determined to regain the AWA title.



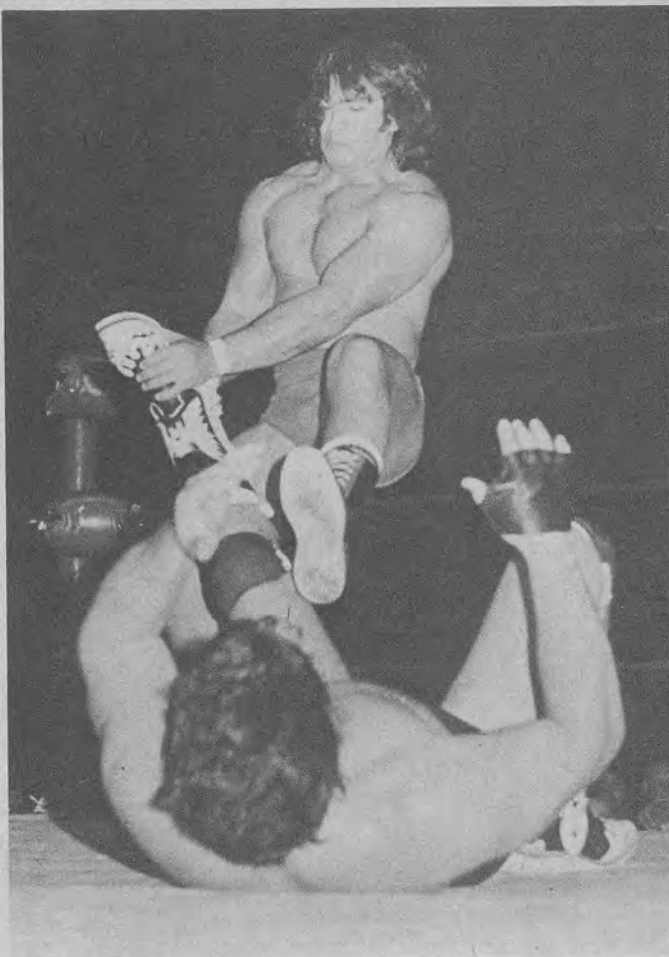
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# **RICK STEAMBOAT**

## *Promising Young Wrestler*

Has developed into one of the most exciting youngsters in the sport . . . His speed enables him to execute extremely complicated maneuvers . . . Though thrown against some tough and experienced competition, he never lost his poise against these rulebreakers, thus catapulting himself into the ranks of the leading contenders . . . A perfect gentleman who typifies the scientific wrestler . . . Is destined never to fall to the worst instincts of rulebreaking . . . Very strong . . . Fast becoming an idol of the female fans.

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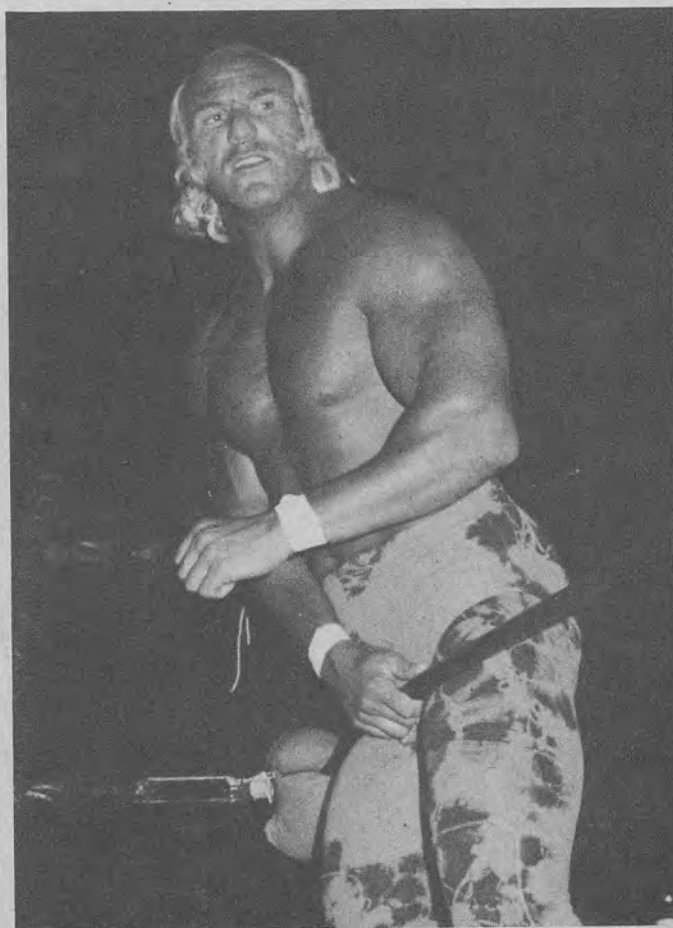
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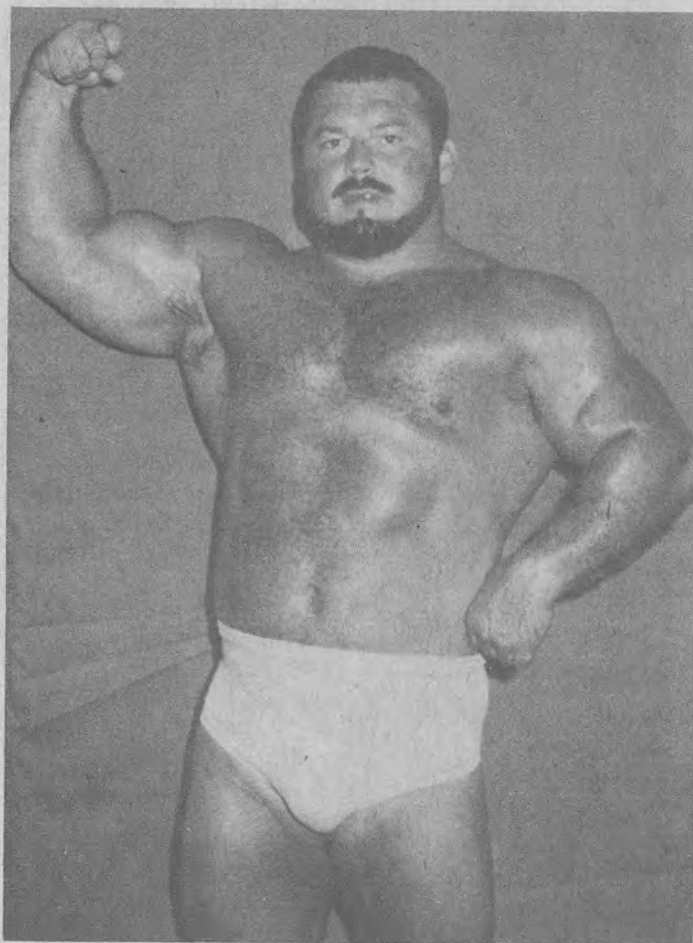
# **SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM**

## *Ex-WWWF Champion*

An absolutely vicious and cruel wrestler who still whines about his title loss to Backlund . . . His ego is without equal in wrestling . . . May have the most perfect physique in wrestling, though Mascaras would challenge that . . . A winning competitor in body-building events . . . Absolutely ruthless and without mercy for his opponents . . . Hated and respected throughout the sport . . . His mere presence is cause for fan revulsion . . . Must be admired for the rulebreaking exploits he has perfected in his violent career . . . Gloats over the sight of his opponent's blood . . . Is universally feared for his brutality.

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## IVAN PUTSKI

### *Beloved Figure Throughout the Sport*

Because of his gentle instincts, this Polish-born grappler is underestimated . . . Impossible to crush because of his incredible courage . . . Craves the love of his fans . . . His strength can be overwhelming, though the over-reliance on brute force may be hindering him . . . Shows some awkwardness when confronting smaller and quicker foes . . . His principal weapon is the "Polish Hammer" . . . Greatest flaw is his quick temper which often leads to disqualification . . . Would do anything to please his fans, as his exhausting schedule attests to . . . Still needs a manager.



## KEN PATERA

### *World's Strongest Man*

Once a brilliant scientific wrestler, he stunned the wrestling community when he turned to sadistic rulebreaking . . . Under the hypnotic spell of Captain Lou Albano, Patera now insists he is only interested in cruelty and money . . . He first gained recognition when he became an Olympic weightlifter . . . To add to his intimidating strength, he also possesses several devastating speed moves . . . Completely dedicated to keeping in shape . . . Can still become a great scientific wrestler . . . Would be better off without Albano's poisonous influence.



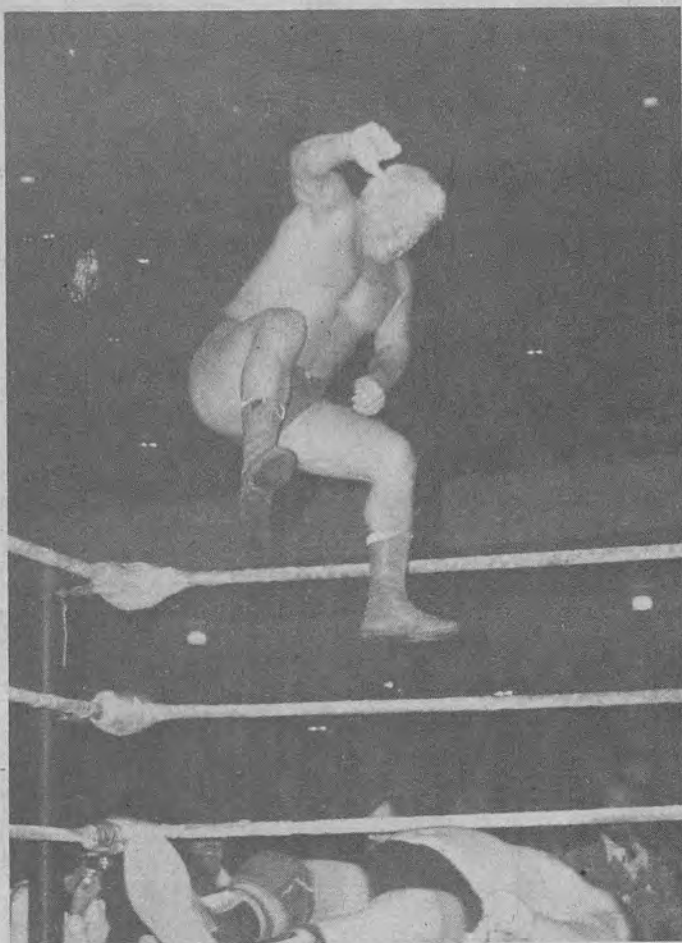
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# BRUISER

## *One Man Riot Squad*

Turned his back on rulebreaking and joined the ranks of scientific wrestlers . . . Has difficulty mastering complex moves, so he relies on his great strength and power . . . Has perfected one of the most terrifying moves, the clawhold . . . His courage and high pain threshold enables him to continue battling even when on the verge of unconsciousness . . . One of the more sure-footed wrestlers . . . Feels that new-found fan support has had a lot to do with his success . . . In last 20 years, has warred with all the top men in the sport . . . Still has trouble keeping his blazing temper under control.

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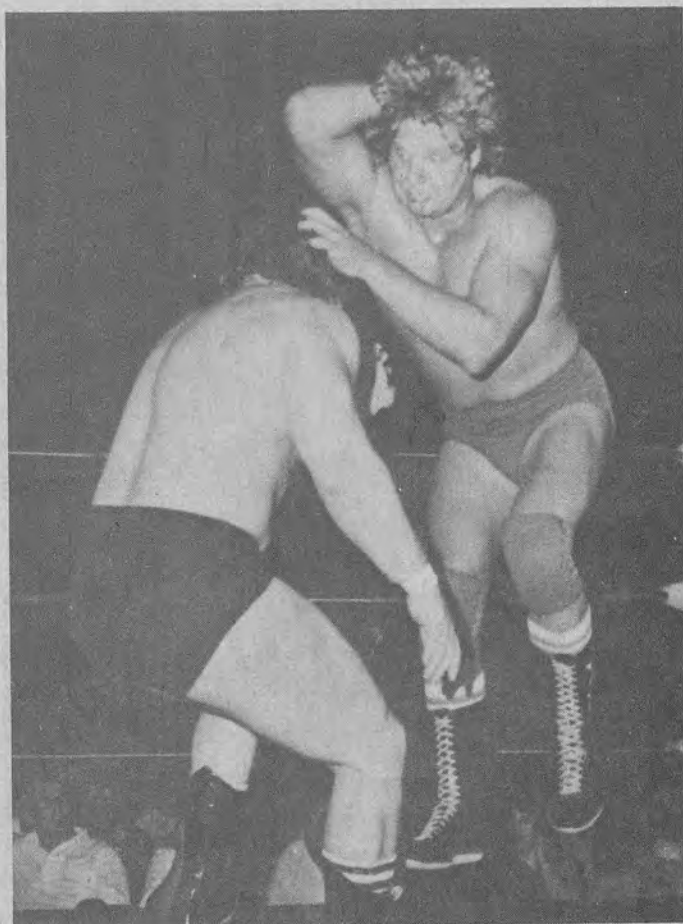
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# DICK SLATER

## *Erratic Yet Dangerous*

A volatile and unpredictable personality who vacillates from villain to hero, depending on his arcane whims . . . Still groping for his own unique style . . . Has excellent speed and above-average strength . . . Former Missouri state title holder . . . Cunning grappler who will plead for mercy only to trick his opponents . . . Can return brute force with ease . . . Courage is still suspect, as are finishing maneuvers . . . Has been known to go berserk in the ring at the slightest provocation . . . Needs an experienced and sympathetic manager to put him on top . . . Many still think he has potential for greatness.

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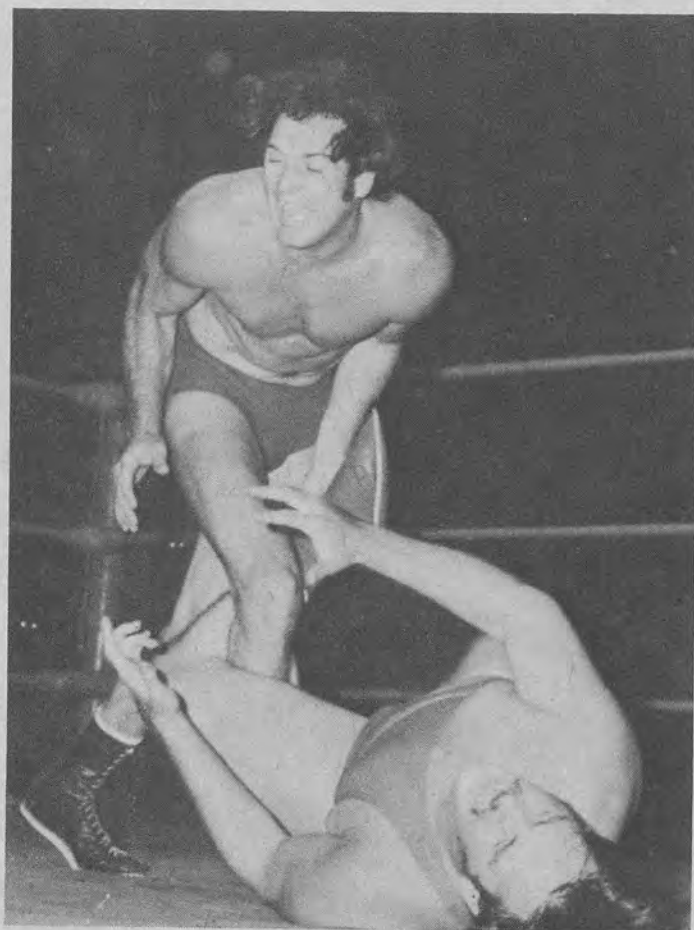




# RAY STEVENS

## *Talented Veteran*

Changed his evil ways after the start of a feud with former manager Bobby Heenan . . . He and Nick Bockwinkel set wrestling history for longest AWA tag team reign . . . Still resorts to old ways and gets himself disqualified . . . Trying to use his innate cleverness and agility more . . . Loves to brawl though maintains he would prefer scientific grappling . . . Most famous technique is the "Bombs Away" . . . Famous for the fluidness of his finishing maneuvers . . . Impatient with pre-match strategy and prefers to improvise in the ring . . . Experience is crucial weapon.



# GREG GAGNE

## *Following in Father's Footsteps*

One of the brightest young stars in wrestling . . . Unquestionably the most scientific-oriented wrestler of all the youngsters . . . Credits father Verne for much of his success . . . Lithe frame contains surprising strength . . . Agility and speed can be devastating . . . Fanatic about sustaining top physical conditioning . . . Stamina and courage are without peer . . . For a young man, he has an effective repertoire . . . Enjoys improvising . . . Thrives on accepting challenges and devising new modes in which to defeat his foe . . . Needs to add some weight before he'll be ready for the belt . . . Very poised . . . Inexperience is probably only thing keeping him from the title.



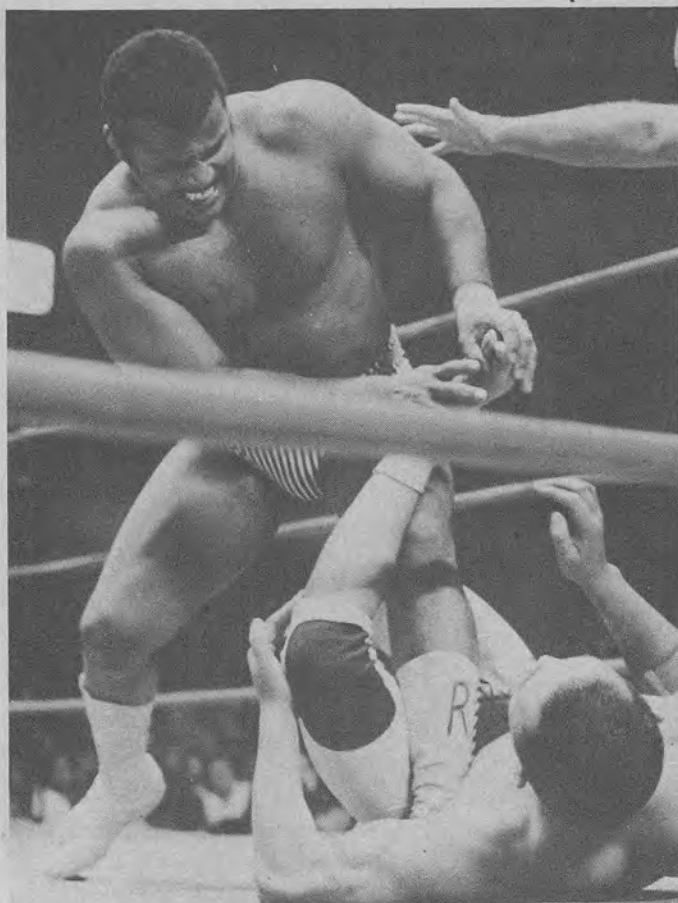
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# ROCKY JOHNSON

*Mr. Clean*

A premier scientific wrestler . . . Has withstood some awful beatings and recovered to triumph . . . Seems to lack the killer instincts which are necessary for the championship . . . At times seems too nice to opponents, until aroused, then he is as relentless as any . . . Owns a marvelous body . . . Good speed which aids him in some of wrestling's most complex maneuvers . . . Strength and power are decent, but not overwhelming . . . Needs a good manager to furnish leadership for his directionless career . . . A big fan favorite . . . Has met almost all the top grapplers in the world . . . Considered one of the politest men in the sport.

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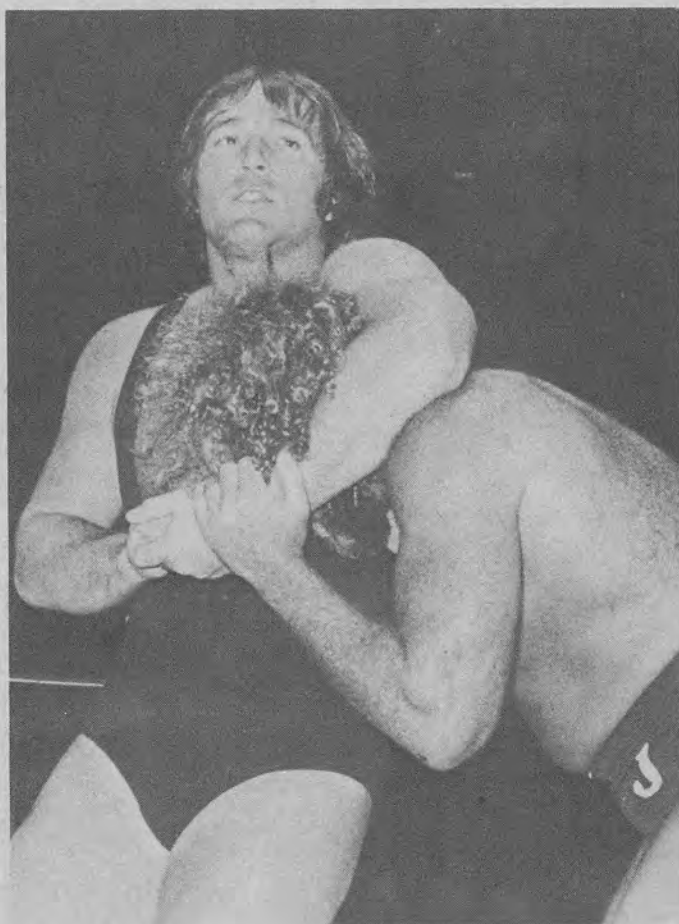
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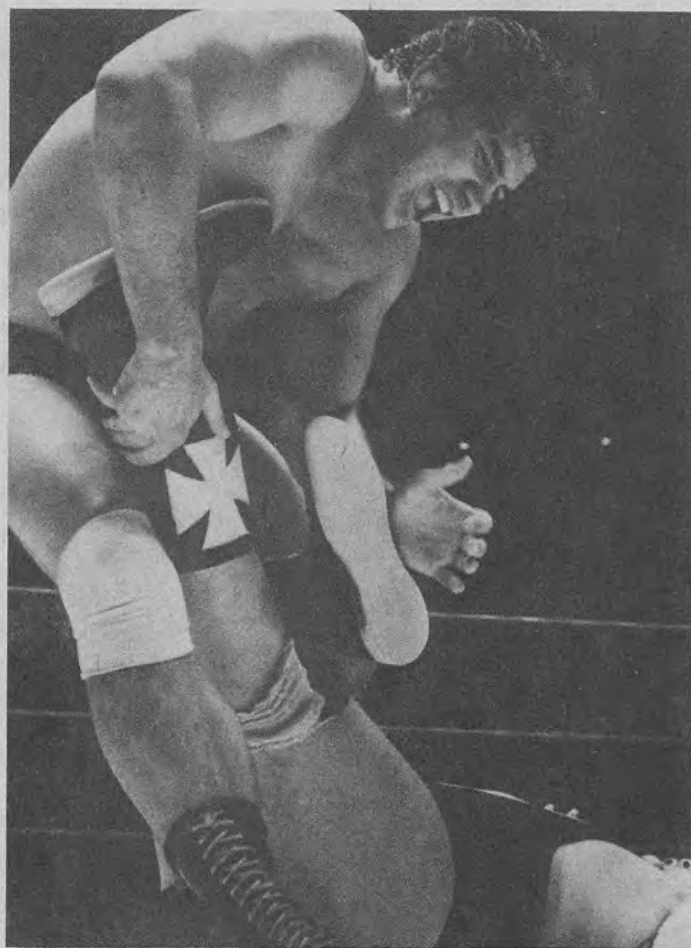
# STEVE KEIRN

*Scientific Student*

Considered one of wrestling's rising young stars . . . Shares the U.S. tag team title with close friend Mike Graham . . . A perfect gentleman, unless he sees some evil committed upon his partner . . . Intensive scholar of the various scientific holds . . . Excellent speed and strength . . . Always tries to abide by the rules . . . Insists that he will never stop working on his maneuvers . . . Has shied away from individual matches because of friendship and success with Graham . . . Still harbors dream of winning a major single title . . . Representative of the young men of integrity entering wrestling today.

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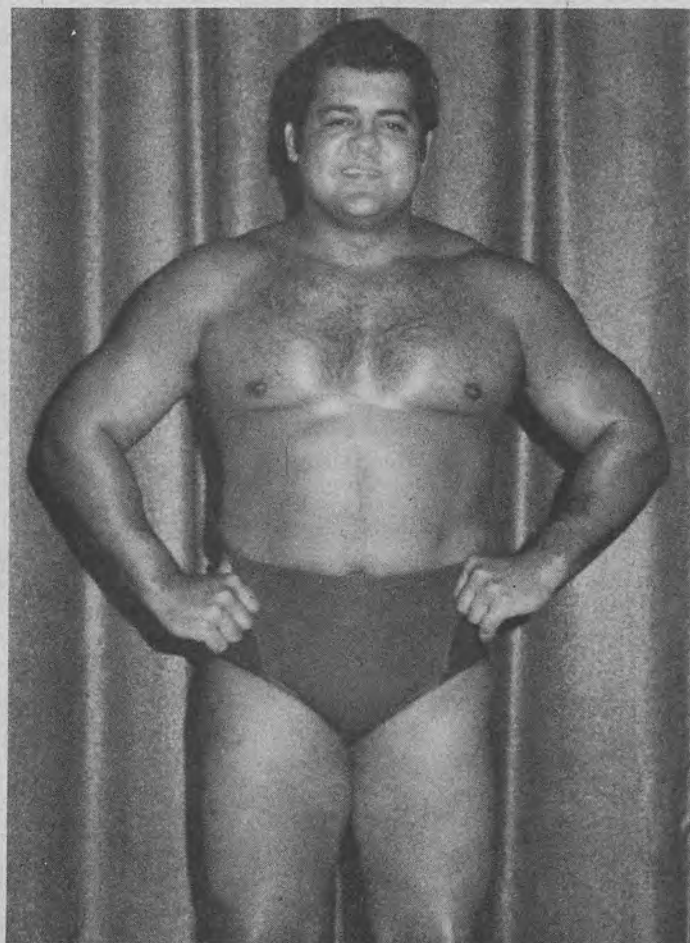




# JERRY BRISCO

## *Next Generation Superstar*

A genuine good guy who refuses to succumb to alley tactics . . . Many think he can become a legendary wrestler . . . Combines overwhelming strength with solid speed and agility . . . Creative mind allows him to improvise when situation warrants it, though he'd rather stick to pre-match strategy . . . Able to analyze opponents after a brief while . . . Good tag team partner with brother Jack . . . Spends countless hours practicing moves . . . Seems to relish receiving punishment and then psyching out opponents with his courage and stamina . . . Hates wrestlers who aren't polite to fans . . . Has donated time and money to various charities.



# PEDRO MORALES

## *A Genuine Good Guy*

Former WWWF champion whose professionalism earned him the lasting love of fans around the world . . . Ability to withstand punishment seems greater than any inherent talents . . . Has done a lot with average strength . . . Very agile, his principal weapon . . . Owns two magnificent moves, the reverse cradle and the flying bodypress . . . Is almost never disqualified . . . The thought of running away is unthinkable to him because of his respect for his fans . . . Certainly one of the most courageous grapplers . . . Has taken some of the cruelest men in the sport and stood his ground . . . Owns victories over almost every top wrestler.



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# TERRY FUNK

*Former NWA Champion*

Member of the famous Funk family . . . Unlike his father and brother, prefers questionable tactics rather than scientific skills . . . Tough and dangerous man who can match savagery with the worst of rulebreakers . . . Though he has good speed, rarely uses it . . . Sight of blood, his own or his opponent's, fails to rattle him . . . Spinning toe-hold is used to finish off foes . . . Encounters difficulties with scientific wrestlers . . . Intelligent but not in a creative sense . . . Short temper often leads to disqualification . . . Probably the least controllable member of the Funk family.

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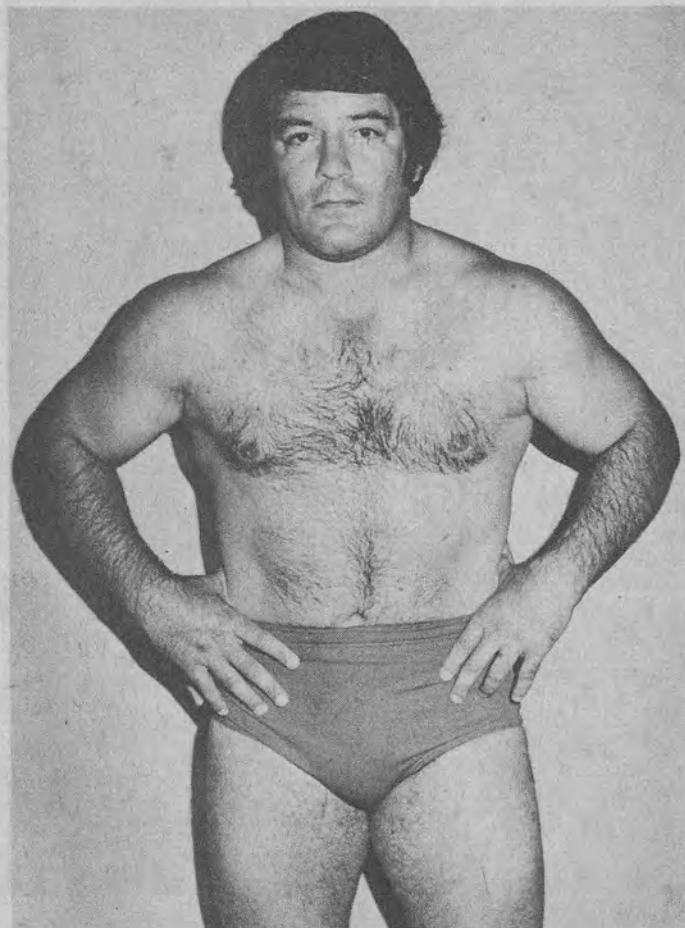
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# PAUL JONES

*Gentleman Wrestler*

One of the big talents . . . Has tremendous strength which effectively complements his serpentine agility . . . Has held many regional titles, but just can't seem to win a world belt . . . Sleeper hold is legendary, as is his atomic drop backbreaker . . . Equally adept against both rulebreaker and scientific wrestlers . . . Never loses his poise . . . Believes in using the classical moves rather than improvising . . . Methodical man who charts his entire strategy before the match . . . Adequate speed . . . Always cordial to his many fans . . . Has engaged in some of wrestling's longest feuds.

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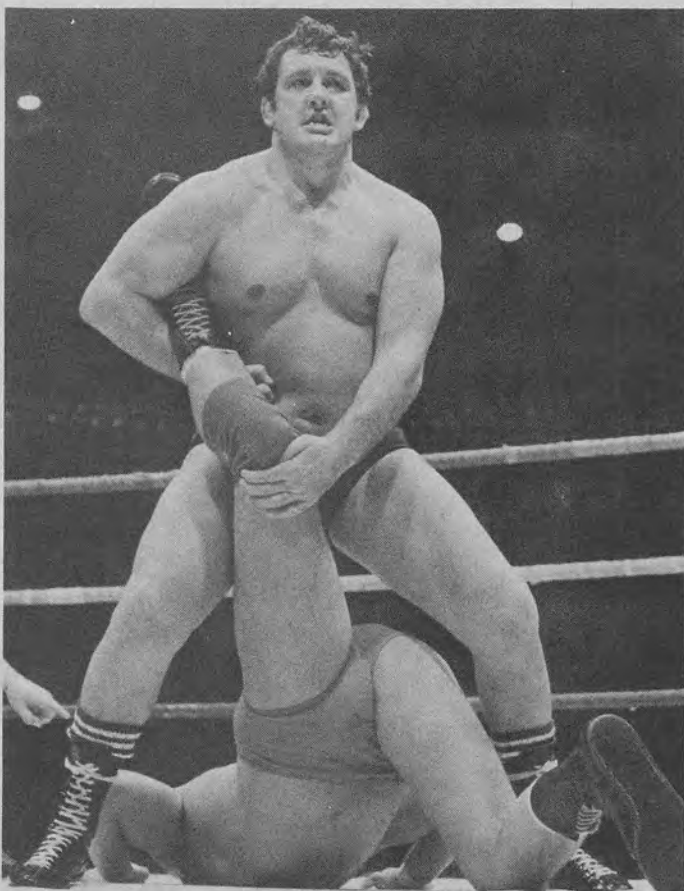




# MR. WRESTLING II

## *Masked Magician*

A steady and effective wrestler . . . Consummate professional . . . Rarely loses his temper . . . Believes in methodical approach instead of spectacular moves . . . Super human ability to take punishment . . . Uses his intelligence to persistently defeat opponent rather than improvise . . . A proponent of judo, from which he has derived many of his techniques . . . Headlock can be devastating . . . Finds that his mask furnishes most of his inspiration . . . Bravery proved when he ignored doctor's warning and resumed his career . . . Has yet to demonstrate any really efficient finishing moves . . . One of the few scientific wrestlers to wear a mask.



# BILLY ROBINSON

## *Respected Wrestler*

Undoubtedly the most famous wrestler ever to come out of Great Britain . . . An impressive all-around athlete who combines great speed with awesome strength . . . Has devised numerous complex moves, most notably the suplex . . . Doesn't care for improvising and prefers to follow the pre-match strategy . . . A loyal and hard-working tag team partner . . . Never loses temper even when faced with the most devious of rulebreakers . . . Marvelous conditioning and dedication enables him to sustain his skills over the most grueling of matches . . . Many younger wrestlers look to him for guidance . . . Is impassioned about winning a title for his native land.



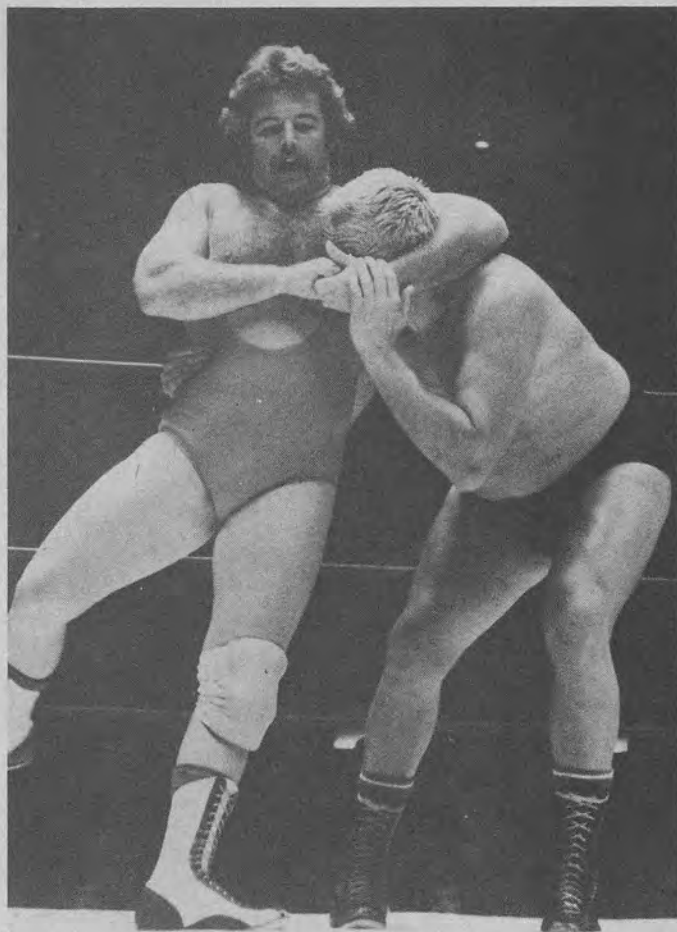
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# MIKE GRAHAM

## *Continues in the Family Tradition*

Has inherited father Eddie's intense competitive drive . . . He and his father have won many tag team honors . . . Though he has won several regional individual titles, he seems to thrive in tag team bouts . . . Despite brutal beatings from men who take out grudges they felt for his father, he maintains his calm . . . Spiraling agility is his key weapon, though his power is underestimated by astonished foes . . . Possesses an incisive and penetrating intellect . . . Finishing move is the figure-four leglock . . . Never quits because of his personal obligation to his fans . . . Will brawl if forced, but prefers not to.

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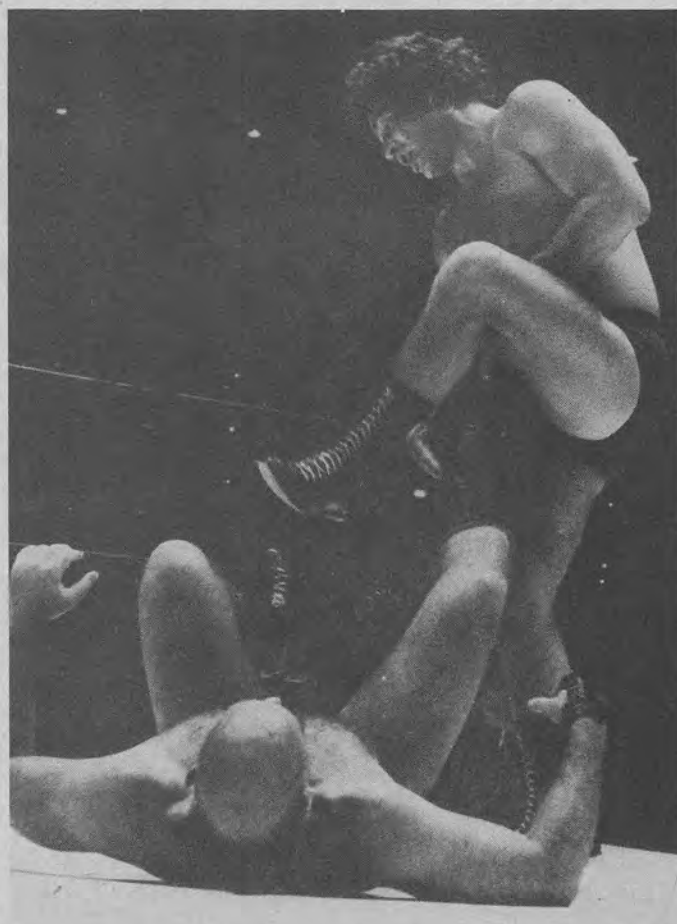
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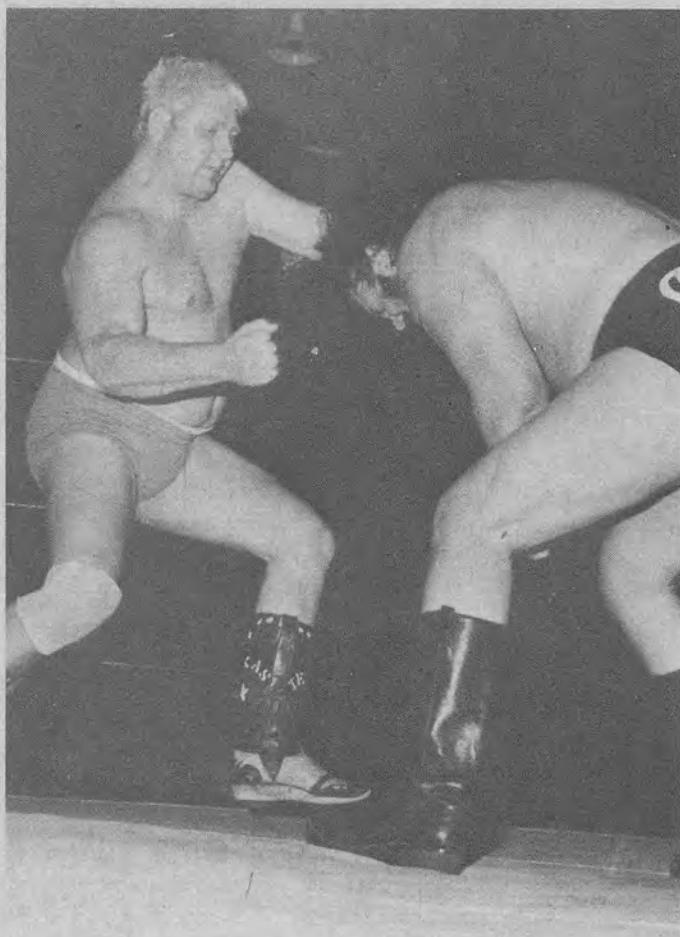
# JACK BRISCO

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A true professional who comports himself with dignity in every situation . . . Seems on his way back to regaining the NWA belt he held for a considerable time . . . Possesses incredible concentration which unnerves his foes . . . Owns one of the most debilitating holds around, the figure-four leglock . . . There have always been whispers about his dedication and courage . . . Uses his experience well . . . Weaves an effective blend of intelligence and agility, producing a myriad of adroit speed maneuvers . . . Excellent physical condition enables him to continue long after lesser wrestlers have surrendered . . . Wants the belt, but no one is certain how badly.

---





# DICK MURDOCH

*Missouri State Champion*

After a haphazard and brutal career, he may soon become NWA champion after his capture of the Missouri State title, a traditional springboard into the title atmosphere . . . His courage and stamina make him a formidable foe . . . Has finally decided to perfect more moves, augmenting his already considerable skills . . . Speed and agility are mediocre . . . Seems to have simmered down his notorious temper and suffers fewer disqualifications . . . Formerly a tag team partner with Dusty Rhodes in their "Outlaws" days . . . Determined to win the NWA belt.



# STAN HANSEN

*Despicable Wrestler from Texas*

Takes great delight in crippling his opponents . . . Nearly destroyed the great Bruno Sammartino with his feared "Lariat" hold . . . Has limited intellect but makes up for it with his methodical style of wrestling . . . No speed to speak of but does possess enormous strength . . . Recently has indulged in travels abroad and has bested many of the top European and Japanese grapplers . . . Amazing stamina which conceals his cowardly streak . . . An unpredictable tag team partner who might aid his partner or desert him . . . Becomes easily rattled when faced with a superior foe . . . Might develop into a champion if given the proper guidance from a trustworthy manager.



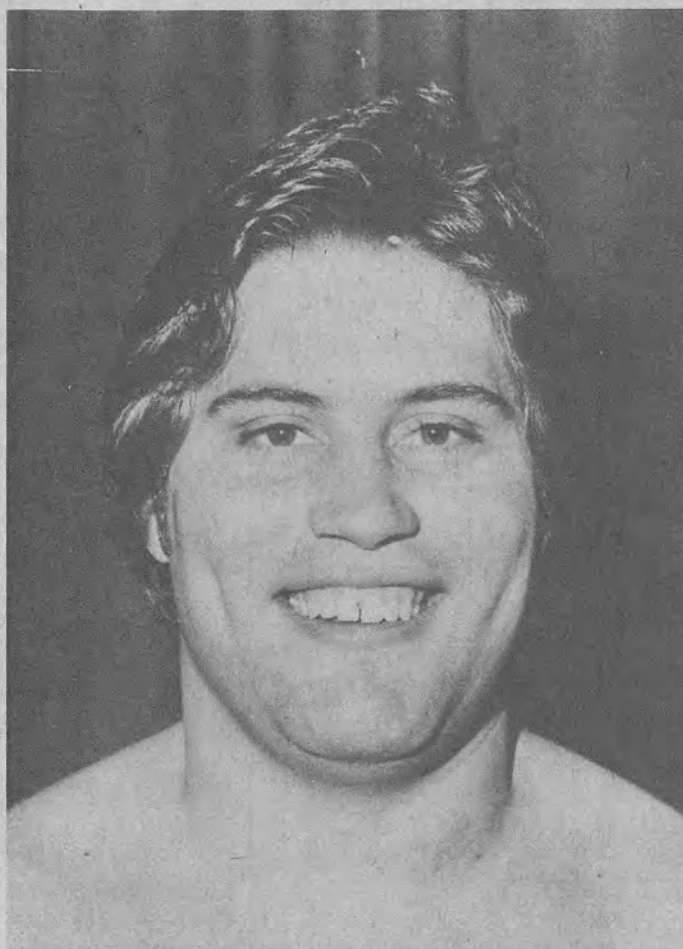
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# JIM BRUNZELL

*The Grand Deviser*

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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 8)



Above: Ernie Ladd and Chavo Guerrero both had the bloodiest match of their careers the night they wrestled each other. Tough Ladd was particularly savage, Chavo managed to withstand the assault. Below: In a furious strap match, Dusty Rhodes became a bloody mess. But if you think he looks bad, you should have seen how his opponent looked!



Would Have Thought the Punk Had So Much Blood in Him!" (Spring 1978). I've seen Ladd wrestle and I really think it is time he was banned from the sport forever!

**SAL CONTACCIO**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

### RESPECT HIM!

There's no way not to respect Dusty Rhodes for his brave decision to wrestle Superstar Billy Graham in a strap match in "If You Think I Look Bad, You Should See My Opponent" (Spring 1978). It takes a real man to realize he must undergo a frightening and bloody ordeal because he must accomplish something. A lot of people aren't willing to take risks like Dusty is, and I truly admire him for that. You can tell he isn't entirely happy about doing it, but he would never consider backing down.

**FELIX MADISON**  
Boston, Mass.

### PUT HIM IN IRONS

Every time I think I've heard the most nauseating story, along comes an even more despicable article. Ernie Ladd should be ashamed to admit what he did to innocent Chavo Guerrero in "Who



Mil Mascaras is one wrestler who has always remained true to his principles. He refuses to brawl with even the most vicious of rulebreakers.

#### HYPOCRITES

I finally became angry enough to write you people a letter and let you know how I feel. All these good guys complain about the viciousness of rulebreakers, then say that the only way to end the violence is to become as violent as they are. I think that's totally hypocritical. Once you use violence to get rid of violence, you're no different than anyone else, nor can you claim to be. That's why I have such admiration for Mil Mascaras. He never succumbs to the violence, no matter how evil his opponent is.

NANCY HARTWICK  
Jacksonville, Fla.

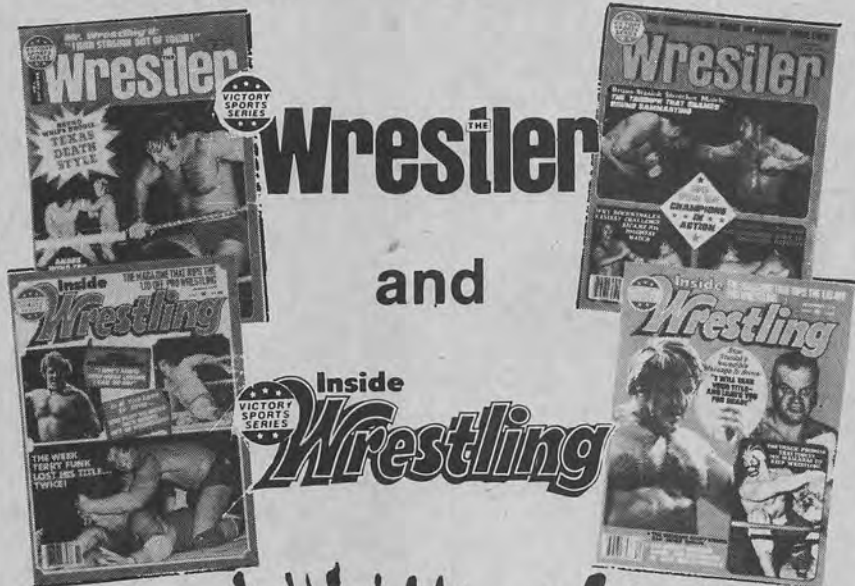
#### FUN TO LOOK BACK

Since Dusty Rhodes is my favorite grappler, I really enjoyed the article you wrote on him when he first began his career in "What Really Happened to the Class of '65" (Spring 1978). It was thrilling

(Continued on page 46)

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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 45)



A reader from Florida claims that Gorilla Monsoon has always been a great wrestler, even when he was a rulebreaker. Of course, now that Monsoon has become strictly scientific, our reader feels the man is one of the best wrestlers in the sport.

to relive Dusty's early days as a bad guy. I was there for one of "The Outlaws" first matches and I never thought I'd live to see the day when Dusty would become a good guy.

By the way, I do think Dusty looks a lot better with long hair. I love his curls.

PAMELA ROTH  
Athens, Ga.

### ONE OF THE FIRST

Even when everyone else was hating Gorilla Monsoon, I knew that deep down he was a nice man. I always had big arguments with my friends when I said that Gorilla

was basically a decent person. It was a great day for wrestling when he helped out Bruno and they became good friends and partners. I wasn't surprised. Not at all. The only thing that surprised me was that it hadn't happened sooner. Sometimes people need a spark to show their true colors and I guess Sammartino being ambushed was the spark Monsoon needed. I'm president of my local Gorilla Monsoon Fan Club and quite proud of it.

ARTHUR LOTENZO  
St. Petersburg, Fla.



The late Luther Lindsey was a beloved wrestler who might have become a world champion if death had not come at such a young age. Fans still mourn for him.

### SO SAD

When I read about Luther Lindsey's death in "What Really Happened to the Class of '65 (Spring 1978), I was deeply saddened. I always thought he had the potential to become one of the greatest wrestlers of all time. He was also a fine and decent man. His "skullbutt" maneuver was an exquisite piece of scientific wrestling. They say the good die young and in Luther Lindsey's case it was certainly true.

KEVIN O'CONNELL  
Washington, D.C.

### WHAT DOES HE EXPECT?

It is amazing that Superstar Billy Graham can complain about someone else like he did in "I Almost Bled to Death During This Match" (Spring 1978). He himself has been guilty of the worst possible crimes against wrestlers in his nasty career. Sure Bruno had to defend himself. And Sammartino was obviously provoked by one of Graham's rulebreaking moves. I don't feel sorry for anyone who gets what he deserves. I don't like to see anyone hurt but I'll make an exception in Graham's case.

SONNY SANFORD  
Minneapolis, Minn. □

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# SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

(Continued from Page 13)

had for the title. He was living comfortably, but he was going nowhere.

It was one single event—one over which he had no control—that changed everything. Bob Backlund won the WWWF belt from Superstar Billy Graham. This was significant to Chavo. Like everyone else in

the wrestling community, Guerrero has watched the rapid rise of Backlund. He feared Bob might end up facing a fate similar to his—a quick climb to near the top, then a sudden and dramatic decline. But when Backlund succeeded in winning the title, Guerrero found himself confronting a completely



Superstar Billy Graham tries a powerful bearhug to break Chavo's spirit. He will shortly discover that Guerrero did not fear him, a factor which helped the young Mexican grappler conquer his vicious opponent.



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different emotion—envy. After all, a relative unknown had just taken a major title. Why had it been Backlund and not Chavo? Their styles and methods were comparable.

This quirk of fate prodded Guerrero into action. He demanded from the promoters that they match him against high calibre opponents. When Superstar Graham made it known he was available, the California promoters invited him to wrestle Chavo. Graham quickly accepted, thinking he would have no trouble dealing with the young man.

To understand what happened during this match, it is necessary to understand a bit about both men. Superstar Graham has been wrestling for several years now. He is used to relying on his great strength to win his matches. When his power fails him—as it sometimes does against scientific, innovative wrestlers—Billy will resort to brawling as a means of winning. To him, this is the most effective way of wrestling. He is, after all, the ex-champion of the WWWF. That counts for something.

Chavo Guerrero takes a radically different approach to the sport. He is strictly scientific. He enjoys innovation. He revels in using complex maneuvers which stretch his talents. Of course, if forced he will brawl, but only on rare occasions.

In many ways, this match was just like the match Graham had against Bob Backlund. It pitted Billy's older, brawling tactics against a young man's

(Continued on page 50)



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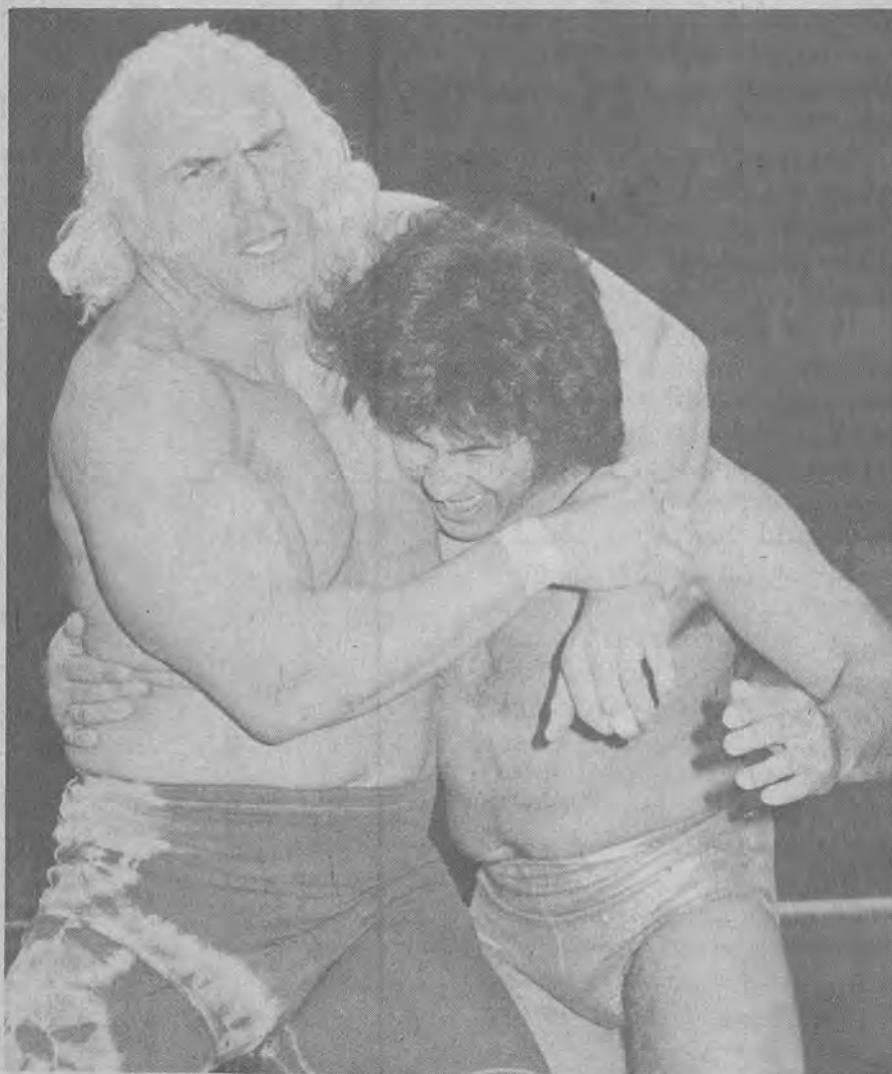
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# SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

(Continued from Page 49)



In one last desperate attempt to win, Superstar Graham tried to tie up Chavo in a headlock. It didn't work. Guerrero easily managed to slip free and then began his assault which finally led to a victory over Billy.

scientific, innovative methods.

But no one was prepared for this kind of result.

The match started as many expected it would. Using a method which had been effective before, Superstar Graham applied a crushing series of bearhugs to his young opponent. The purpose of this was to weaken Chavo early in the match. It had worked on other young men. It did not work on Guerrero. Chavo proved too slippery for Graham. He kept slipping

from Billy's clutches. This frustrated Graham. This was not supposed to happen. Still, for the first few minutes, it appeared Graham had control.

It quickly became Chavo's turn. A very effective backdrop stunned Graham. He hadn't expected it. This was followed up by a series of holds which caught Billy off-guard. Superstar Graham was being overwhelmed by Chavo Guerrero.

A small cut opened on Graham's forehead. This was further aggravated when



Chavo hurled Billy to the other side of the ring. Graham's face landed on the ropes and the cut opened even wider. It was a ghastly sight.

Superstar Graham was weakening quickly. Chavo was winning, but he took little pleasure in the way this victory was coming about. He asked the referee to stop the match. Graham was too seriously injured to continue. The official agreed. Twenty seven minutes into the battle, the action was halted; Graham had lost too much blood to go on.

The ex-champion was furious. He wanted to continue. But his protests went unheeded. And he did require assistance getting back to his dressing room.

The ovation for Guerrero was tremendous. Every fan in the arena cheered his victory. But the way in which he had won disturbed Chavo. "I will give Superstar Graham a rematch if he wants one," said Guerrero later in the dressing room.

At nine o'clock the next morning, Chavo's promoters started receiving calls from many parts of the country, asking if Guerrero was available to wrestle many of the top men in the sport. The news of his victory had traveled quickly. Guerrero was suddenly in demand again.

Let no man ever again doubt the abilities of Chavo Guerrero. After he so convincingly defeated Superstar Billy Graham, no man can underrate him. He has proven his talents.

Again, Chavo's goal is within his grasp. Look out, Harley Race, here comes Chavo Guerrero. ☐

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## Wahoo vs. Race

(Continued from Page 22)

himself, but to his hated enemy. Race had to prove he was a true champion, not to himself but to his hated enemy.

Thus the battle both extended beyond and contracted within these dangerous guidelines. More than a title was at stake, yet the participants were limited to just the two men. Nothing to prove to the fans. Only to each other.

McDaniel is one of the finest and cleanest grapplers around. Yet he will brawl when forced. Whether he entered the ring prepared for that is debatable. Race gave him very little time to decide.

As soon as Wahoo turned his back to greet some fans, Race exploded with a kick into McDaniel's kidneys. Wahoo slumped to the ground and Harley began pummeling his face with vicious thrusts of his mammoth fist. McDaniel cried out in pain, a sound which elicited a broad sneer from Race. As the smug smile spread and threatened to encompass his entire face, McDaniel let loose with a thunderous war cry and tripped Harley, sending him to the canvas.

The NWA champ was stunned. Perhaps he had underestimated Wahoo McDaniel. Surely he had underestimated McDaniel's hatred.

Wahoo scampered atop Race and put him into a crushing neckhold. Race tried every foul trick he has ever used, but they were futile against the suffocating hold. Finally, near the point of unconsciousness, Race grabbed Wahoo's hair and tugged until a thick clump of McDaniel's locks were seen protruding from between Harley's fingers.



Harley may be heading for the canvas, but he plans to take down McDaniel with him. This battle proved to be a lot tougher than either man ever expected.

McDaniel screamed and Race kicked him in the groin, ran to the ropes, and thundered head-first into McDaniel's anguished frame. Picking up McDaniel by the arms, Race twirled him around and flung him to the ground.

Blood began trickling out of Wahoo's forehead. It was only the beginning.

Seemingly semi-conscious, McDaniel was an easy target for

one of Race's knee drops. However, just as Harley's knee hovered inches above his face, McDaniel squirmed away and jumped atop the belt-holder. McDaniel pulled and thrust and clawed until Race was blinded by his own blood. Then McDaniel spun Harley around, bounced him off the ropes, and let fly a crippling ankle pounder which landed in Harley's chest.

"I don't know what happened to me; I went totally crazy," Wahoo said afterwards.

Harley Race is not easily destroyed. Tottering on the edge of exhaustion, he somehow managed to get to his feet and grab McDaniel around the throat. He choked and squeezed and shook the purplish face until it seemed that McDaniel was finished.

Miraculously, Wahoo found enough of his dwindling strength and channeled it into his left arm. Slowly, ponderously he lifted it and jammed it into Race's stomach. Harley fell backwards against the rope as McDaniel pounded his face with murderous blows until the blood engulfed both men.

They wrestled on the ground, precious little energy left, only bestial determination pushing them to destroy the other. A human life was saved as the contest ended at the one-hour time limit, preserving Race's belt, McDaniel's pride, and their lives.

"I know I could have gone on as long as he could," said McDaniel, wincing as the stitches were placed into his opened forehead.

"The only way I ever would have stopped was if he had killed me," said Race, lying on his back on the dressing table, a doctor applying medicine to his deep wounds.

Fortunately this was not a death test. Someone would have failed the final exam. □

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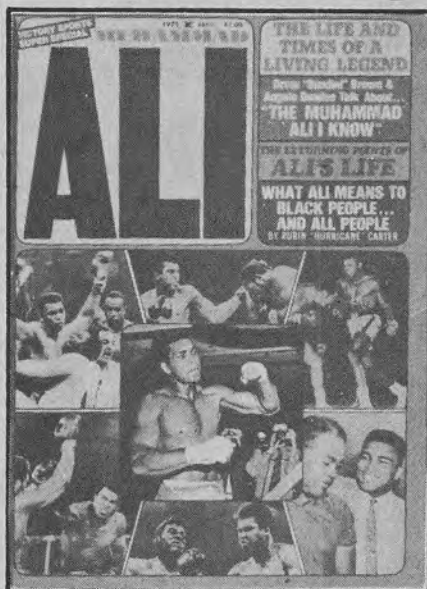
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## KILLER KARL KOX

(Continued from Page 23)



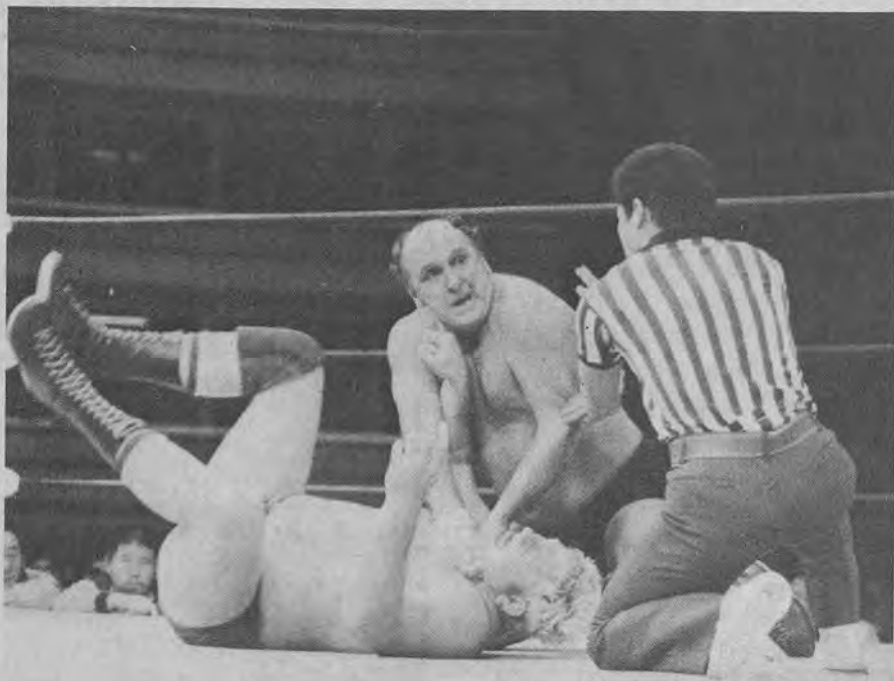
Dick Murdoch's face is a bloody mask of red thanks to the cruelty of Killer Kox.

unfortunately behavior of that kind is tolerated in wrestling, disfiguring the reputation of the decent men who form the majority of the sport.

Now his viciousness has reached new heights. He has thrown photographers into the ocean, fractured jaws of spectators, torn the clothing off women and hurled lethal weapons onto ringside observers. Only a conclusive psychological decision is left to throw this horrid disease out of wrestling. One man has the courage to stand up against Kox's murderous vengeance.

"In my business, I face disturbed personalities every day. There is an element of risk, should a word from me completely rupture their fragile cord and send them into maniacal hysteria," said Dr. Wilson. "But I have a job to do. I am not a god. I try to cure people and make suggestions. And my suggestion in this case is that Karl Kox is a dangerous person who should be placed

Kox has Murdoch down on the canvas and is trying to choke his opponent.





under psychiatric care, preferably in a maximum security mental institution."

It's one thing for Kox to display unrelenting cruelty against opponents. It is an entirely different matter when he begins attacking spectators.

"That is an alarming sign," said Dr. Wilson. "By attacking spectators, Kox has shown an inability to distinguish between genuine opponents and innocent people."

"This is often the first sign of deteriorating mental stability. Kox can no longer reason between right and wrong. This also manifests a paranoid attitude. When you couple these factors together, you end up with a potential homicidal personality. Wrestling must, simply must, ban Kox, before it is too late."

Wrestling officials have been considering banning Kox for some time now. But they are afraid. Several unproven yet disturbing rumors have followed Kox around, hinting that he has been responsible for at least four murders, two of them wrestling promoters whom he thought had interfered with his career.

Perhaps the frozen indecisiveness has found a thawing element in Dr. Wilson's courage:

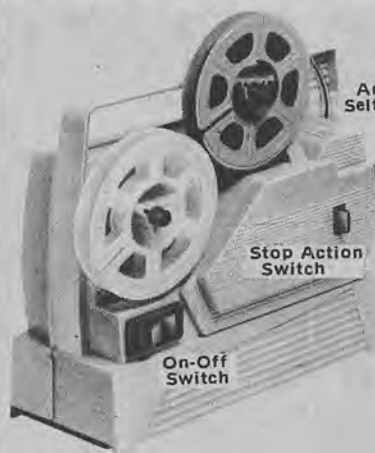
"Afraid of Kox? Not really. I'm sure he could tear out my limbs. But I have a responsibility and I won't shirk from it. Killer Karl Kox may indeed be a killer. We better get him help now. If we wait any longer, we all might be attending funerals." □

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** It is our sad duty to report that several days after Dr. Manfred E. Wilson gave us his analysis of Killer Karl Kox, he was found dead in his plush Park Avenue office.

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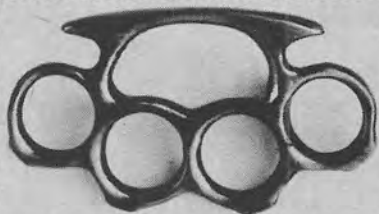
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# Backlund vs. Rhodes

(Continued from Page 25)



Roger Kirby learns that Bob Backlund can be a formidable opponent.

wrestle against," said another promoter. "Against a Graham or a Race he's super and people would charter planes to watch him. But

Backlund doesn't generate any hatred; just the opposite. People would be confused and the whole thing would resemble some sort of tossed salad without the dressing. Bland, man, just bland."

The disturbing part of all this is



that Sammartino succumbed to just this sort of unusual logic. He never did wrestle the decent men. It would be a travesty if the same fate befell Backlund and Rhodes.

"I've heard those excuses and I just don't agree with them," Backlund said. "If all the fans want it then it would seem logical to me that they would show up. Seeing the two best wrestlers in the world going at it would appear to be a sufficient draw to me."

"Fans love me for what I am and not who my opponent is," Dusty



Dusty Rhodes endeared himself to the fans by handily defeating rulebreakers like Ole Anderson. But how would he do in a match against a scientific man?

said, his gentle features hardening into a reddened rage. "My fans would cheer me if I were wrestling the Pope. I don't need a bad guy. All I want is some real competition. And Backlund is the best competition around. Wouldn't draw! That's ridiculous. I'm the most popular wrestler around. You telling me that fans wouldn't come to see me against the world champion? I don't believe that."

Dusty's disbelief notwithstanding, it is true; an irrefutable truth may prevent one of the great matches of our time. Isn't there some way this match can take place?

(Continued on page 58)

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# Backlund vs. Rhodes

(Continued from Page 57)

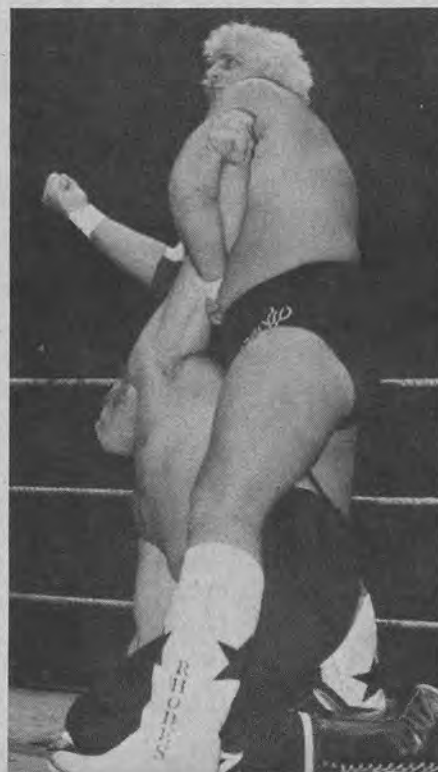


Dusty Rhodes has always wrestled the toughest and most ruthless opponents in the sport. Terry Funk nearly lost his belt the night he battled Dusty (above). Stan Stasiak was given a painful lesson by Rhodes (below).

Only if there exists some promoter somewhere out there in this great country who is willing to defy wrestling tradition and showcase this championship match. He might suffer the fate of ostracization. He could be harassed about renewing his license. He might even lose money.

But he would set a precedent which could reshape the entire philosophy of wrestling. By putting two great and decent wrestlers against one another, he would open the way for similar matches. Wrestling would no longer be mired down in the simplistic precepts of good vs. evil. A new day would dawn upon this wonderful sport.

And if he fails? What if tradition is grounded more in harsh economic realities than in the





Bob Backlund has never been afraid to take on tough competitors like Ken Patera (above) and Executioner #2 (below).



On the night he wrestled Terry Funk, Bob nearly won the NWA championship.



simple preservation of the status quo?

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Pic. Bk/Win 75



Pic. Bk/Spr 76



Pic. Bk/Sum 76



Pic. Bk/Fall 76



Pic. Bk/Win 76



Pic. Bk/Mar 77



Pic. Bk/May 77



Pic. Bk/Fall 77



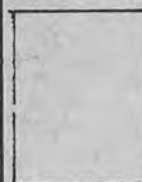
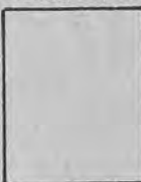
Pic. Bk/Win 77



Pic. Bk/Spr 78



Pic. Bk/Sum 78



## ALBUM



Wres. Album 1



Wres. Album 2





# GRAB BAG IN WRESTLING HISTORY

## GREATEST BATTLES



APRIL 77



JULY 77



FALL 77



WINTER 77



SPRING 78



SUMMER 78

## BEST OF WRESTLER



FALL 76



WINTER 76



SPRING 77



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SPRING 78



SUMMER 78

## SUPERSTARS



WINTER 76



APRIL 77



JULY 77



AUGUST 77



OCTOBER 77



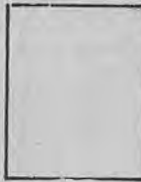
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ANNUAL 4



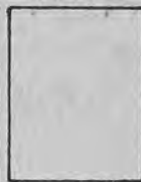
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- ☐ APR/78
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- ☐ Picture Book/Spr 76
- ☐ Picture Book/Sum 76
- ☐ Picture Book/Fall 76
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- ☐ Picture Book/May 77
- ☐ Picture Book/Fall 77
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- ☐ Best of Wres/Spr 77
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- ☐ Best of Wres/Fall 77
- ☐ Best of Wres/Win 77
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- ☐ Wrestling Album 1
- ☐ Wrestling Album 2

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- ☐ Great Battles Apr 77
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- ☐ Great Battles Fall 77
- ☐ Great Battles Win 77
- ☐ Great Battles Spr 78
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- ☐ Superstars/Apr 77
- ☐ Superstars/July 77
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## WHO'S BEST

(Continued from Page 26)



**BRUNO SAMMARTINO**

reflect a true survey of wrestling's finest men. And why.

Thus we went back over our interviews and spoke to even more people until we felt confident enough to pare the list down to 34 people.

Many different factors were considered in reaching our final decision. We incorporated such diverse reasons as past greatness, future greatness, present greatness, those with innovative techniques, men of strength and power, men of agility and speed. As well, we selected several whose innate decency make them excellent grapplers, and those whose natural brutality make them widely feared.

The roster of wrestlers analyzed in this lengthy article at times reads like a Wrestling Hall of Fame.

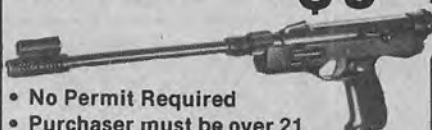


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BILLY GRAHAM**

There is Bruno Sammartino, the "Living Legend." We systematically analyze the reasons for both his greatness and longevity. We consider his principal strengths and weaknesses, and what he must do to recapture the WWWF belt.

Mil Mascaras—we probe the man beneath the mask, and the man beneath the swelter of muscles. Is his success due more to his superb physique or his obsessive love affair with his millions of fans? Or both?

Superstar Billy Graham—as vile and despicable a man as ever laced on a pair of boots. Yet he has been a champion. How did he do it? What character flaws are compensated for by his bristling build and cunning techniques?

Dusty Rhodes—the incomparable American Dream. But is Dusty more glamor than substance? What is the serious flaw which has been preventing him from winning the title? We delve into this absorbing personality and uncover some interesting conclusions.

(Continued on page 64)

## TRIBUTE TO YOUR WIFE A Wonderful Happiness Gift!

The Wife...just a simple little sentence of only two words. I suppose you could say, it is not earth shaking. Nothing to get excited about some would say. But, this little sentence describes one of God's most precious creations. And they come in such a variety of shapes and forms...Big ones, little ones, beautiful and homely ones, but they all have one thing in common. And that is the destiny of the world is in her hands. The Weaker Sex...? Don't you believe it. I gave up this belief shortly after I found out just who Santa Claus was. Lets face it men...Pound for poundshe is the most powerful force on God's earth. In most cases, she is the quiet one, of a promise made in Heaven. She is content to stay in the background, doing the things she is expected to do, and almost always asking for very little in return. But, no sculpture has ever created a more beautiful piece of work, and no artist ever painted a portrait so lovely as this creation called...Wife, even with her rumpled robe and with curlers in her hair..She has the ability to show tenderness that will melt your heart, and in the same instant display a brittle hardness equal to any man. She is the equal partner of our most blessed institution...the home. And a home that is without a wife is like a rudderless ship floundering on a sea of confusion. Her delicate ways can sooth a man into tranquillity and yet her strength can provoke him almost to the animal stage. In her duties of making a home, if all the energy she puts forth was converted into power, it would stagger the shoulders of a big...big man. Her innocent little ways can put fear into the heart of the most high pressured salesman, but, she will buy the cookies of a little brown eyed girl scout, who happens to knock on the door. She has the strength to forgive when she has been hurt almost beyond repair. Very few men can do this. She can out maneuver the smartest of lawyers in a verbal discussion with her words of simplicity and in the next breath ask if the Dodgers has made a touchdown yet. People in high places just never impress her, but she will work like mad to get to the P.T.A. to see her child perform in a little school play. She keeps a personal vendetta with death, and brings forth one of God's most precious gifts, a tiny life in a bundle of pink or blue. She takes the extra burden and never falters. And never has wrath been shown so savagely as it is when she thinks that something or someone will harm her offspring. And as the golden years of your life approach, you learn to love her even more deeply. And you just can't visualize your life with out her. And as time slowly consumes your days, your need for her seems to grow and grow. You watch the wrinkles gather on her face, and the silver of her hair is more visible each morning, and your mind goes back to younger days, when youth was so dominate, and you find that even now, she is more beautiful, more graceful, and you thank God for all these years together. I think that beyond a shadow of a doubt, she is the most unique creation on earth. Mine has made my life so rich, and so gracious and I can safely say, Thank you God for this person, for this hand that I hold and for this love that I have for...My Wife.

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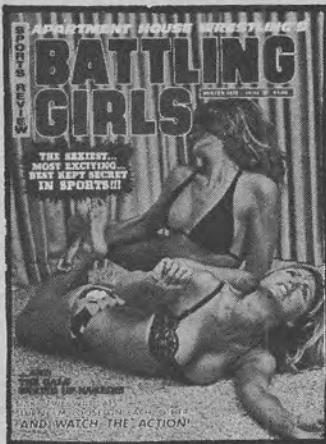
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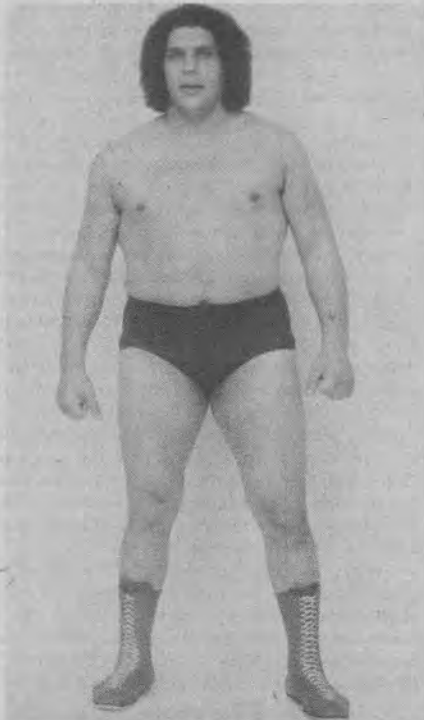
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## WHO'S BEST

(Continued from Page 63)



**ANDRE THE GIANT**



**HARLEY RACE**



**BOB BACKLUND**

Andre the Giant—is there more to this man than just raw, overpowering size? After researching him we found that there is. But the findings still may startle you.

Harley Race—what has allowed him to hold onto the NWA belt long after many people thought he would be defeated? The skills of Race are considerable, as our analysis discloses.

Bob Backlund—chosen for reasons beyond his present possession of the WWWF belt. His startling combination of

strength, speed and scientific wrestling maneuvers make him one of the most formidable forces in wrestling today.

Mike Graham—one of the rising stars of wrestling. A decent man who has plied his considerable talents toward tag team matches. Yet he is also a future individual beltholder.



MIKE GRAHAM

Verne Gagne—the venerable master of wrestling. A man of limitless integrity and strength whose matches have become an educational experience for all who witness them.

Ric Flair—certainly an utterly detestable creature. Yet he does have many skills which often are obscured by his maniacal rulebreaking.

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With just a small down payment, you get the complete VIP going-into-business kit . . . all equipment, materials, complete step-by-step instructions, business-building helps . . . everything you need!

"Wherever I  
see vinyl,  
I can do  
business"



"I've made as much as  
\$60 in 3 hours."  
C. Herrera, Jr., Ariz.

### 9 HOLIDAY INNS FOR HUSBAND/WIFE TEAM

"These Inns have put us on a monthly allotment. We are busy every day. Wonderful to be one's own boss. We are putting on one repairman to handle business other than Holiday Inns. With our setup, we have weekly checks coming from just the Inns."  
Mr. & Mrs. Bechtel, Ohio

### STEADY WORK FOR 20 CAR DEALERS



"20 car dealers give me all their repair work. I call on two or three every day, take care of what's needed. No matter what the repair is, it's easy to do with VIP."  
R. Lanning, Ky.



**\$440 IN  
9 HOURS!**

"I repaired 55 chairs at the NCO Club at \$8 each — \$440 for 9 hours' work. Materials and transportation cost only \$35!"  
D. Gagnon, S.C.

**HERE'S THE VIP  
VINYL REPAIR KIT  
that puts you  
in your own  
HIGH-  
PROFIT  
BUSINESS**

**They all  
started by  
mailing a  
coupon like  
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CAN TOO!**

**ALL FACTS FREE  
BY MAIL — NO  
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### UNLIMITED CUSTOMERS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Auto dealers, car shops, restaurants, motels, bars, clubs, hospitals, bus companies . . . these are just a few of the places that need vinyl repairs, repeatedly. The business is there, waiting for you. And a repair job that takes ½ an hour to an hour can mean a quick \$15 to \$30 for you . . . most of it **PURE PROFIT!**

### MEN, WOMEN, HUSBAND/WIFE TEAMS FIND VIP QUICK, CLEAN, EASY, PROFITABLE!

Both women and men enjoy this easy, profitable way to make good money fast and steady. The VIP exclusive process is so easy, the directions so simple, that anyone who can read plain English can do it. And what a money-maker! A sure way to have an independent income, or build to a business as big as you want to make it. There's no end to the demand!

### GET ALL INFORMATION FREE BY MAIL. NO SALESMAN WILL EVER CALL.

Just mail the coupon. We'll rush all facts to you **FREE BY MAIL.** No obligation. No salesman will call. It's hot! Do it now!



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Chicago, Ill. 60618

Vinyl Industrial Products, Dept. 627  
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**\$513<sup>00</sup>**  
**in first 10 days!**  
"The first 10 days I made \$513. Now getting business from 15 car dealers, 6 furniture stores, 4 restaurants and bars, and clothing stores."  
H. Whaley, Wash.



**ALL FACTS FREE  
BY MAIL — NO  
SALESMAN WILL  
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# An ATLAS BODY? In 7 days

my method of DYNAMIC-TENSION starts giving you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed.

**Lose "pot belly."** Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a REAL man! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.

## HOW I CHANGED FROM A 97 LB. WEAKLING TO A REAL MAN.

One day, I discovered a secret that changed me from a timid, frightened scarecrow into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" — a "magic formula" that can help turn you, too, into a marvellous physical specimen . . . a REAL man from head to toe . . . a man who STANDS OUT in any crowd! What's my secret? "DYNAMIC-TENSION" — the natural method! No theory. No gadgets or contraptions. You just do as I did. Simply take the "sleeping" muscles already present inside your own body — build them up — use them every day in walking, bending over, reaching, even sitting! Almost before you know it, you're covered with a brand-new suit of beautiful, rock-hard SOLID MUSCLE!

## SEND FOR FREE BOOK AND 7 DAY TRIAL OFFER.

So sure am I of how fast "Dynamic-Tension" works that I make this offer to you. Try my course for 7 days and in even that short period of time you will have results that not only you can feel, but your friends will notice, or it costs you nothing. Send for my free book. WRITE NOW!  
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